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THE TIMES

No. 65,852

TUESDAY APRIL 1 1997

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'Commons has draconian powers'

Expulsion for sleaze sought by Major

By Andrew Pierce and Philip Webster

JOHN MAJOR issued a new warning last night to Neil Hamilton and other MPs involved in sleaze allegations that he will back their expulsion from Parliament and the Conservative Party if the charges against them are upheld.

The Prime Minister, in a letter to all constituency party chairmen, made it clear that he would accept their choice of election candidate — even when there were unresolved questions hanging over them.

He was confirming the reluctant abandonment by the Tory high command of its attempt to force the Tatton Conservative association to drop Mr Hamilton.

But it also amounted to a final appeal to the association and Mr Hamilton to think carefully before going into the election if they have any suspicions that the Downey report on cash-for-questions will find against him. He is to be formally adopted as candidate next Tuesday.

It is understood that Mr Major is frustrated by the refusal of the constituency association to ask Mr Hamilton to stand down, when his candidacy is clearly damaging the party. The Opposition parties have threatened to withdraw their own candidates and to back an anti-corruption figure.

But sources close to Mr Major said last night that without any power to force the association to change its stance, he could do no more than bring them face to face with the consequences of their actions.

Labour said the move proved Mr Major's impotence to deal with Tory problem MPs. John Prescott, the deputy Labour leader, said: "The Prime Minister seems to have run up the white flag. Tatton Tories rejected yesterday's plea to de-select Neil Hamilton so John Major has caved in to them.

"Mr Major could have told Tatton not to select him, but he doesn't have the confidence to do it. Mr Major's dithering has left us with the worst of all worlds."

"There's no sleaze today — it must be an April Fool"

Mr Major, writing about the Downey report, said: "All these many issues may be unresolved now but they won't remain unresolved for long. The Select Committee's report will be published and if it criticises Conservative MPs, I for one will wish Parliament to act quickly and decisively to uphold its reputation.

"The House of Commons has draconian powers. The Conservative Party will support their use if criticism is severe enough to merit it. It can, of course, also withdraw the whip if that seems appropriate."

Informed sources said Mr Major was prepared to back expulsion. If any MP was thrown out of Parliament he would be the first for 50 years.

The sources said the letter was aimed at MPs involved in the accusations and their constituencies. "Heaven help the MPs if they have been pulling the wool over our eyes," one said.

Mr Major wrote: "It has been suggested that I disband constituency associations and impose new candidates. But under our Conservative Party constitution the selection of a candidate is the responsibility of the association — the decision to contest the seat is for the candidate."

Conservative sources admitted that the effort to force Mr Hamilton out had failed. A series of senior backbench MPs were used at the weekend to try to persuade him to go.

The changed mood within Tory ranks was reflected by Dame Jill Knight, a member of the Commons committee investigating cash for questions. Asked on Radio 4's *Today* programme how the Tories could reverse the damage of the past fortnight, she said: "I can tell you how we are not going to do it. We are not going to fly in the face of British justice and say a man is guilty because allegations have been made against him."

A spokesman for Conservative Central Office confirmed the position. "It is a matter for local associations and always has been," he said.

Douglas Hurd, the former foreign secretary, in a surprise intervention, called for the sleaze issue to be laid to rest. "It's time for the amusement arcade to close down," he said in a statement.

Mr Hurd, a respected Tory grandee, added: "Private lives are for individuals to sort out. Accusations of parliamentary abuse must be rigorously sifted by the procedures laid down. Neither should be at the heart of the election.

"Roughly every five years the British people have the chance to choose their Government. They are entitled from today to four weeks of serious debate on the sort of Britain they want. John Major has shown he is ready for this. It is now for other parties and the media to respond."

But Labour pressed home their advantage. Peter Mandelson, the party's campaign strategist, said that if Mr Hamilton remained, sleaze would dog the Tories until polling day.

Major's letter, page 2

MARTIN RICKETT

Swampy: eco-tunneller and now — "if not in prison" — determined to undermine Labour in the general election

Swampy digs for poll victory

By Russell Jenkins

SWAMPY abseiled from the entrance of his tunnel 50ft up a sheer embankment on the wooded site of Manchester Airport's second runway to unveil his "Don't Fly, Don't Drive" election manifesto yesterday.

The eco-warrior, alias tunneller Daniel Hooper, kept the media waiting while he finished his favourite Pot Noodle snack before declaring his intention to stand for Parliament on behalf of the Never Mind the Ballots Party.

He aims to contest Blackley, the rock-solid Labour seat in north Manchester where the prospective Labour candidate is Graham Stringer, a political high flyer, former Manchester City Council leader, chairman of the airport board and the target of much derision from the tree dwellers and tunnel diggers.

"We are deadly serious," said Swampy. "We have not got enough cash for a deposit as yet … we need £500 and we have two weeks to raise it.

"Our aim is to draw attention to the destruction being caused to the environment. I shall take time off from tunnelling to canvass in Blackley — provided I am not in prison. And I am happy to challenge Councillor Stringer to a televised debate."

Swampy, who carried his election banner reading "Dig for Victory", had already circulated the press with his ten-point manifesto and several of his sayings, such as "Democracy is more than a vote once every five years. It is about active participation." And: "The expansion of Manchester Airport is sleazy Old Labour at its worst. It is an embarrassing stain on Tony Blair's credentials."

The front page of his manifesto carries a spoof photograph of Graham Stringer and Geoff Muirhead, the airport's chief executive, jokingly putting two fingers in the air. Inside, under a heading of "Don't Fly", he explains that a Government led by Prime Minister Swampy would stop subsidising the air industry, stop airport expansion, stop misleading claims for Runway 2 and stop internal flights.

Under the "Don't Drive" section, he would issue proclamations to start putting national targets on traffic reduction, start putting freight on rail, start revoking planning permision for out of town shopping centres and start taxing parking.

Swampy's appearance at the press conference was in defiance of his bail conditions. He is due to appear in court later this month on a charge of criminal damage to a security fence. Bail was granted on condition that he stayed at least four miles away from the second runway site.

Panic as Clinton cuts aid for the single

From Bronwen Maddox in Washington

PANIC has seized immigration and welfare offices across the United States as tough rules come into effect today, cutting off government support from hundreds of thousands of people.

Under the Republican-backed welfare reform proposals signed by President Clinton last August, single, childless, able-bodied adults will have food stamps cut off unless they work at least 20 hours a week.

The stamps are also being withdrawn from thousands of legal immigrants and rules on immigration drastically tightened. That has prompted a rush to claim full citizenship — and a rush to the altar — as many mistakenly think that a quick marriage will improve their chances of staying.

The central plank of the welfare reform laws is "workfare", withdrawing government benefits to encourage poor people to find a job. In Britain, both Conservatives and Labour have built workfare schemes into their election manifestos.

Critics of workfare argue that the economy is not growing quickly enough to absorb these people and that food stamp recipients are poorly equipped to do the jobs that are available.

In the US, food stamps are one of the main sources of government support for the poorest. Last November, 24 million people received stamps, costing $28 billion (£17.5 billion) a year. The maximum any person can receive in one month is $120. Under the new legislation, states can apply for a one-year exemption from the provisions; three quarters have done so on the ground that they do not have enough jobs to soak up the number of people who would be thrown off the rolls.

Scouts killed by rock fall

Marcus Hill, 25, a Scout leader, survived a rock fall that killed two childhood friends sitting an arm's length away.

The victims did not even have time to cry out as they were crushed by the collapse of an overhanging sandstone ledge which was apparently weakened by the heat of their campfire at Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire ....Page 3

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Hundreds drink to the end of the line for BR

By Gillian Bowditch
Scotland Correspondent

HUNDREDS of rail enthusiasts converged on stations in Edinburgh and Glasgow last night clutching souvenir tickets and glasses of free champagne to celebrate the final journeys by public sector trains.

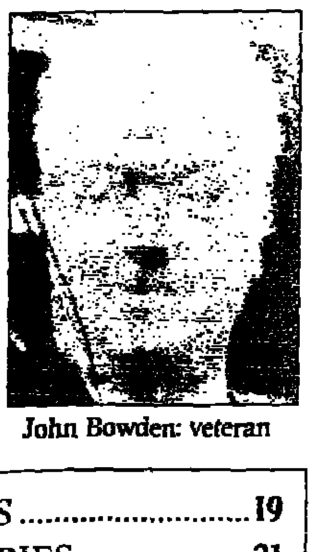
ScotRail, the last of the franchise rail networks to be sold by the Government, was formally handed over at midnight to National Express, the bus company which won the privatisation tender.

Two special ScotRail Class 158 expresses were laid on free for the enthusiasts. One ran from Edinburgh Waverley to Glasgow Queen Street, and the other made the journey in the opposite direction.

Passengers received a ticket commemorating the last public sector journey and the first private return. They were also given a commemorative miniature of whisky and free champagne on board. Jazz bands and pipe bands greeted their departure and return.

In fact, neither of the celebratory expresses could claim to be British Rail's last train. The last to leave was the Edinburgh to London sleeper, which departed from Waverley shortly before midnight. The last to arrive today will be a sleeper to Fort William.

ScotRail staff at Waverley were joined by John Bowden, 64, the only current rail employee who started working before nationalisation. He joined the old London and North Eastern Railway as a 14-year-old in June, 1947 and will retire from manning the ticket office at Blairhill station in Lanarkshire next January.



John Bowden: veteran

Alan Dignon, a ScotRail spokesman, emphasised that the service would continue to operate as normal under National Express, which has promised to improve comfort and frequency of service.

However, the new service may be hit by one-day strikes this month as employees fear that up to a fifth of the 3,900 rail employees may be made redundant under the new management.

National Express was awarded the seven-year franchise after asking for £35 million a year less in subsidy from local authorities than at present. The company recently reported a 45 per cent surge in profits to £60.1 million. There have been job cuts at other of its rail franchises.

Leading article, page 19

Easter holiday was sunniest since war

By Robin Young

BRITAIN has just enjoyed its warmest Easter since 1989. In many areas it was the sunniest since the Second World War — a climax to the third warmest March since temperature records began in 1659.

A Meteorological Office spokesman said yesterday that March 1997 was bettered only by 1957, the warmest March on record, and 1938. The average countrywide daytime temperature was 12.5C (54.5F), which is 3.5C (6.3F) above the long-term average.

Yesterday's temperatures were the warmest of the Bank Holiday weekend, typically rising to 16C or 17C (61F-63F), although breezes meant temperatures on the coasts were held down to about 12C (54F).

The result was that many more people went out on day trips to the coast or countryside yesterday, compounding traffic jams when the haul homeward got under way as sundown approached.

An AA Roadwatch spokesman said: "Easter holiday Monday on the roads is usually about the big return home after the break, but today there have been a lot of people still going out."

The RAC said the South Wales holiday resort of Porthcawl was "closed" during the afternoon because of the pressure of traffic.

For many tourist destinations it meant a bumper start to the 1997 season. Traffic jams five miles long greeted daytrippers who headed into Brighton.

AA Roadwatch said that some of the busiest roads were around Whipsnade zoo park, Bedfordshire, where a baby white rhinoceros was an attraction.

The warmth and the forecast that there would no appreciable rain except possibly in the far north of Scotland for at least another week, has rekindled concern about water supplies. Already water companies are circulating customers with leaflets emphasising the need to conserve water.

Forecast, page 22

AN OPEN LETTER

April 1 1997

Dear Bill Cockburn,
Alan Giles,
Richard Joseph,
David Mackay,
Joe Sinyor,

If you don't want Hilton Kask in *your* boardrooms

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Promises, promises: but will manifestos fit the bill?

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

We are going to be deluged with promises from the parties this week in their manifestos. The message will be "vote for us and we will do all these things to improve your lives". But governments have too often made a mess of translating such promises into workable policies.

A pre-emptive antidote is provided by two complementary pamphlets from each side of the party spectrum: *Think Ministers ... Reinvigorating government in the UK* by Professor Philip Norton of Hull University, published by the Centre for Policy Studies, and *Ready, Steady, Go! New Labour and Whitehall*. The latter, published by the Fabian Society, is based on a series of seminars between former senior civil servants and frontbenchers.

The Fabian pamphlet is a "how-to" guide for aspiring ministers and special advisers, full of sensible advice on the need for clear priorities and the dangers of being sidetracked into short-term crises and media management. It discusses, for example, how Downing Street can be strengthened, through a reformed policy unit in the Cabinet Office, to undertake longer-term work.

This fits in with what Peter Hennessy, one of the co-authors of the Fabian paper, has envisaged as Tony Blair's "command premiership with big policies driven from the centre". That is how Mr Blair has run Labour in opposition. But, as Professor Hennessy recognises, British government is also collective. I am not sure that Mr Blair's advisers yet realise how, in practice, it will be impossible for him, or for that matter Gordon Brown, to have control over every policy announcement, as they now do.

Professor Norton, although writing from a centre-right viewpoint and doubtful about sweeping constitutional change, has put forward proposals that could, and should, be adopted by an incoming Blair government. He argues that the processes of government are now flawed: too much legislation is proposed and it is inadequately scrutinised by Parliament. As a former Permanent Secretary quoted in the Fabian pamphlet remarks of much-trumpeted legislation: "Flagships should be avoided, they always sink."

Professor Norton suggests improving the quality of legislation by expanding the scope for consultation and non-adversarial consideration by Commons committees. At present, there is a desperate rush to get Bills through within the annual parliamentary session. This cut-off could be abolished and Government and backbench Bills could be carried over.

More radically, but also rightly, Professor Norton adds his voice to the growing call for a reduction in the number of ministers, government departments and MPs. This is, alas, unlikely to appeal to an incoming party long frustrated in opposition.

Labour is pledged, in the report of its joint consultative committee with the Liberal Democrats on constitutional matters, to "modernising" the Commons. But new administrations are usually more concerned with the levers of power in Whitehall than strengthening Parliament's role in scrutinising the actions of impatient ministers. This week's manifesto promises would sound a lot more convincing if we could be sure they would be considered fully before they were implemented. Good government matters as much as active government.

PETER RIDDELL

We won't surrender to bullying, defiant Blunkett tells NUT

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

DAVID BLUNKETT silenced militant teachers yesterday with a warning that a Labour government would not be deterred from reforms by bullying or threats.

In a combative speech to the National Union of Teachers, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary confronted activists who had made a series of calls for industrial action. He won a standing ovation from the majority of delegates, although many leftwingers refused to applaud when he had delivered his message.

Before launching Labour's plans to improve numeracy, Mr Blunkett made a strong attack on strikes in schools: "I do not think that withdrawing your labour and leaving children without a teacher actually assists in raising standards or the esteem of the teaching profession."

Industrial action could only be justified as a last resort in disputes about working conditions. "There is no place whatever for strike action on government policy or the inspection system or the rigour of testing."

Mr Blunkett had to take refuge from angry demonstrators when he attended the NUT conference two years ago. Yesterday he said: "We will not tolerate division or bullying or threats, not simply from those who attend union conferences, but from anyone who has a vested interest in any part of our country ...they will not stand in the way of me and my colleagues radically changing the delivery of the education system."

Mr Blunkett reminded the conference of his background as a teacher in the South Yorkshire coalfields whose children attended an inner-city comprehensive with poor examination results. He said there would also be an immediate start to tackling an estimated £3 billion backlog in school repairs.

Doug McAvoy, the NUT's general secretary, said: "This union doesn't seek conflict or confrontation; it seeks partnership with a government that shares its ideals and its philosophy."

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said that the NUT delegates represented the "real voice" of Labour. "I'm sure what we would see if Labour were elected is that Labour would have to reap what they have sown over the years as far as education is concerned."

☐ Children would be banned from using calculators until at least the age of eight under Labour's ten-year plan to raise numeracy standards. The aim is for three-quarters of 11-year-olds to reach the standard expected of their age by 2002, and 90 per cent by 2007. Only 55 per cent of those leaving primary school reached this mark last summer.

Labour would insist on whole-class teaching, rather than the progressive methods it blames for present failings. There would be changes in teacher training and a programme of professional development for serving teachers. Mr Blunkett also announced a numeracy taskforce, to report in one year.

Libby Purves, page 18

Teaching union says rival is 'a disgrace to the profession'

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

The NUT's leadership was yesterday branded a "disgrace to the profession" by the country's second-largest teachers' union. At his union's conference in Bournemouth, Nigel de Gruchy, leader of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said Christine Blower, the NUT president, sent a dangerous message to parents by withdrawing her 11-year-old from national tests in protest against the test scheme.

Ms Blower, who also plans to withdraw her six-year-old daughter from the tests, said she had not taken her stand as a professional, but as a parent. "There is ample evidence to show that I am far from a disgrace to my profession," she said.

PETER NICHOLLS

Mr Blair speaking to Bank Holiday crowds near Maidstone, Kent, yesterday when he and John Prescott unveiled Labour's election slogan

Blair pledges to keep personality politics out of Labour campaign

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

TONY BLAIR stole a march on his political opponents yesterday by venturing into the Bank Holiday sunshine to launch his party's poster campaign and unveil Labour's election slogan, "Britain Deserves Better".

With the campaign proper not formally under way until this morning, the Labour leader promised to "rise above the sleaze" and said that Labour candidates would not be allowed to engage in personality politics.

Mr Blair's message on sleaze will be echoed by John Major and Paddy Ashdown when they hold their press conferences today.

The Labour leader will be accompanied at his press conference by Alan Howarth, the MP who defected from the Conservatives during the last Parliament and has since been selected to fight Newport East for Labour. Labour sources said his presence was intended to symbolise why New Labour was right for the country and the Conservatives had failed it.

While most politicians took a break, Mr Blair and his deputy, John Prescott, were in the Kent countryside with their new posters. He claimed that between now and polling day each would would bear a positive message rather than run down the Tories. "The conventional wisdom is that only negative advertising works in elections, that you can only win by scaring the voters about your opponents. We aim to prove that this is not the case. I have issued instructions that all our posters betweeen now and May 1 — election day — will be positive."

His claims were ridiculed by the Tories. Alan Duncan, a member of the campaign team, said that if Mr Blair was running a positive campaign why would he not engage in an open debate with the Mr Major on television.

Mr Blair reinforced David Blunkett's hardline message to militant teachers, saying he was prepared to defy the unions. Asked on the new Channel 5 television station if he would stand up to union pressure, Mr Blair said: "I'll simply say no."

The Labour leader also backed Chris Woodhead, head of the education watchdog Ofsted, which us under attack from the NUT. "I think it's important ... the body that's going to look after standards in our schools has got to be tough and it's got to be strong and it's got to be well led. And I think it is at the moment."

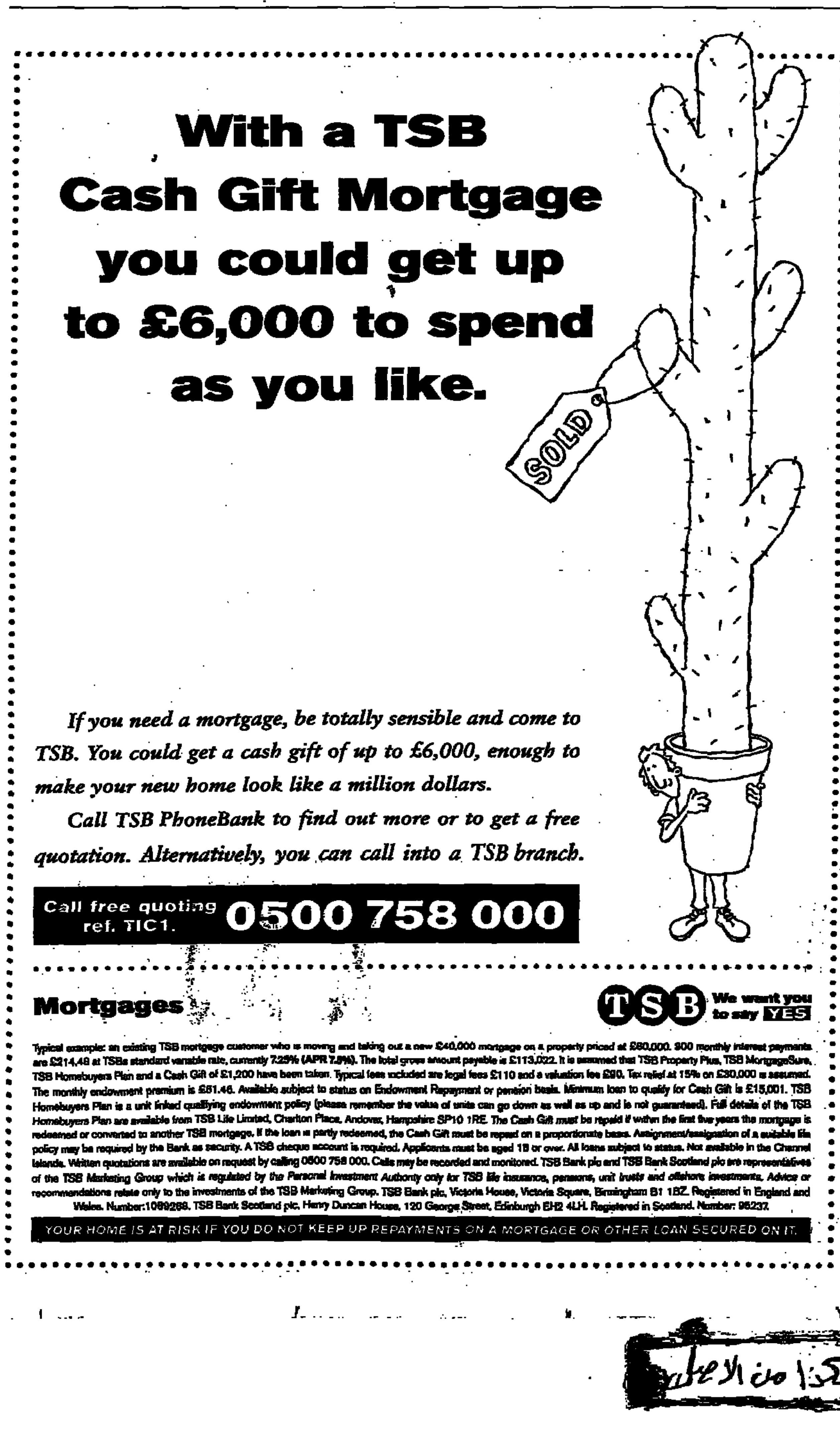
But Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said Labour was impotent in the face of union behaviour. Confirming Tory plans to act against public-sector strikes in its manifesto, he said the Tories would "guarantee the public protection from such calamitous industrial action."

Spinning for party, page 14
Leading article, page 19

POSTERS GIVEN HOLIDAY DEBUT

A garden party at a country-house hotel was the setting for Tony Blair to launch Labour's election posters yesterday. More than 400 local party members and their families joined the Labour leader on the lawns of the Chilston Park Hotel near Maidstone, in Kent. As the party faithful milled about, drinking tea or sitting in a marquee, there was a jazz band to listen to and stalls at which to browse. The Easter Bunny sent children scurrying off in search of chocolate eggs. Girls in red T-shirts bearing the new slogan — "Britain deserves better" — rushed around clutching balloons while candidates sweated in their suits and chatted to party workers. When Mr Blair and his deputy appeared, the party members cheered and tried to clap while holding their cups of tea and sausage rolls. John Prescott, blinking in the bright sunlight, told the crowd: "The daffodils, the buds, the sun — it's time for change and a time for a new Prime Minister." At his word, an army of children unveiled the new posters on vans parked around the lawns.

☐ IN answer to John Major's soapbox, Mr Blair is to make campaign speeches from a platform that slides out of his touring election "battle bus", which enters the fray next week.



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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Major letter spells out tough line on Tory MPs found to be guilty

IN A letter to all Conservative constituency party chairmen last night, John Major said that he would act "quickly and decisively" against any Tory MP who was found guilty of wrong-doing in the cash-for-questions affair.

The following is an extract from the Prime Minister's letter:

"This country is in better economic shape than for generations. However, speculation on other matters is drowning this out and preventing issues from being debated that affect the future of our country.

I have never condoned wrong-doing and I abhor lapses of behaviour in public life. Governing the country is a serious business and the public are right to expect the highest standards and conduct that is honourable.

That is why I set up the Nolan Committee to examine the workings of Parliament and enabled the House to appoint a Parliamentary Commissioner to help MPs regulate their activities.

In this country we do not assume people have behaved improperly until the accusations have been examined and proven to be true.

When Sir Gordon Downey began to investigate a number of complex allegations, I had hoped his report would be completed before the General Election. I am disappointed that it was not. We do not know the conditions Sir Gordon will put to the Select Committee on Standards and Privileges or the judgments the Committee will reach. We do know the accuracy of the allegations against some Members have been — and continue to be — vigorously contested.

I understand Sir Gordon's report is likely to be lengthy as the evidence amounts to thousands of pages and many submissions. When it is received it must be considered. Those involved may wish — or be required by the Select Committee — to give further evidence.

That evidence may influence the Committee's report — as indeed the reports of other inquiries have been influenced after representations by those criticised in them. The whole process will take some time.

There have been suggestions I should publish the preliminary report. I can't. I don't have it. It isn't mine to publish. It may change. And, in any event, it is a matter for the Select Committee who, to the best of my knowledge, have not yet seen the report, let alone considered it.

It has been suggested that I disband Constituency Associations and impose new candidates. But under our Conservative Party constitution, the selection of a candidate is the responsibility of the Association — the decision to contest the seat is for the candidate.

The Select Committee's final report may exonerate members from all, or the most serious criticisms. If so, well and good. However, if the select committee's final report is unfavourable, the Conservative Party will put the interest of Parliament and its reputation above all other matters.

All these many issues may be unresolved now but they won't remain unresolved for long. The Select Committee's report will be published and, if it criticises Conservative MPs, I for one will wish Parliament to act quickly and decisively to uphold its reputation.

The House of Commons has draconian powers. The Conservative Party will support their use if criticism is severe enough to merit it. It can, of course, also withdraw the Whip if that seems appropriate.

Unsubstantiated allegations, still under consideration — against a handful of individuals — should not cheat the electorate of the debate about which party is best suited to form the Government for the next five years. There are big issues to be debated. Let us get on with the real General Election. The future of the country is at stake and the electorate have a right to hear the arguments."

***The Times* will publish in full the manifestos of the three main political parties over the next week**

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاسطبل

Lifelong friends had no chance as rock overhang collapsed on them at campsite

Survivor tells how scout leaders were crushed to death

By Daniel McGrory

A SCOUT leader told last night how he survived a rock fall that killed two friends just an arm's length away. The victims did not even have time to cry out as they were crushed by the collapse of an overhanging sandstone ledge, possibly weakened by the heat from their campfire.

Marcus Hill, 25, survived because he was sitting with his back right against the rock face. He was pinned there as the 10 tonnes of rock crashed down on his friends. He said: "They didn't see it coming and didn't have a chance to do anything."

Mr Hill pulled at boulders piled 7ft high to try to reach the men. The victims, Stuart Perkins, 20, and David Weaver, 21, were childhood friends whom he first met after joining the same scout troop as schoolboys. A new generation of a dozen youngsters from the Kidderminster 11th Scout Group had been playing at the scene of the rock fall only hours earlier, at their regular annual campsite near Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire.

The boys, aged 12 to 15, had left to go to their tents in an adjoining field. Mr Hill went to share a late-night beer with his friends. None of them had regarded the 15ft overhang as dangerous, he said.

Still visibly distressed, and wearing his muddied and torn Scout uniform, Mr Hill recalled how his companions had already taken the most comfortable places near the fire, so he sat opposite them with his back against the rock face.

"We were talking about television, cars and life in general," he said. "It was very sudden. The rocks just fell in. We didn't see it or hear it coming at all. There was no warning. There was no way out whatsoever."

After crawling over the rocks and calling out for his friends, he ran half a mile to a telephone box. With police, he tore at the boulders to try to reach his friends. PC Julian Turner, who was first to arrive at the camp at Cider Hill Farm, said it was immediately obvious that nobody else could have survived, but Mr Hill kept clawing at the rocks until he could see the bodies.

"His companions were within arm's length of where Marcus had been sitting," PC Turner said. "They were all just sitting in a close triangle. It is miraculous that he was protected by a lower ledge and escaped the falling rock."

A part-time fireman brought his own JCB earth mover to remove the largest boulders, while two other Scout leaders took the 12 boys to a nearby Scout hall for the night. The boys were not told of the deaths until morning. Many were in tears as they returned to the farm with their parents to collect their belongings. Mr Hill's girlfriend, Sandra Oliver, was among the other leaders.

The victims: David Weaver, above, and Stuart Perkins

The troop was on its first outing of the year. Mr Hill, a technician with Malvern Hills District Council, said: "The Scouts had been very close to where the rocks came down. On a weekend camp we would always have a camp fire on the last night. We played a few games, told a few ghost stories and a few jokes. It was a traditional scouts evening."

Scout leaders stressed that none of the team had behaved carelessly. There were rings of stones at the spot so that Scout groups could build their camp fires safely and all three had special training and extensive experience of camping. Gareth Roberts, Hereford and Worcester scouting field commissioner, said: "This particular group had camped there for many years. There was no indication that this site was unsafe.

"This is a good Scout group with a good scouting team and they need to be praised for that. I would have no hesitation in letting them go out with a Scout group anywhere in the country."

John Fogg of the Scouting Association said: "One theory is that the fire may have dried out the water in the sandstone. There was a frost that night, but in truth we will probably never know for sure what went wrong. These lads were had come through the ranks as Venture Scouts and were among our brightest and most conscientious leaders."

Martin Packler, Group Scout Leader, said: "The two young lads who died were dedicated Scouts. They had come up from the cubs and they lived and breathed scouting. They just loved it."

The Scout group had arrived on Friday. Members have been staying at Cider Hill farm for over a decade, always building their camp fires under the ledge to avoid damaging the farmer's field.

Mr Weaver was a second-year marketing student at Southampton University and a skilled mountaineer. His mother, Margaret, had been a cub scout leader. His brother Paul said: "These two had grown up together through the Scouts.

"David had often taken groups out on camp before and this is traditionally the first outing of the year. I've been to that spot myself and its a great little place. There are rings of stones by the ridge for camp fires and that is where leaders always build their fire. It was just the wrong night and they were in the wrong place."

Mr Weaver's parents, Keith and Margaret, went to a communion service yesterday. They said: "We are just devestated."

Mr Perkins worked at a bathroom fitting firm, and lived only 100 yards from the troop's scout hut with his parents. His father, Michael, said: "This has not sunk in yet. Stuart had been on camps before so he was very experienced. He had been to that site before. He started off a cub and followed it right through. It was the main interest in his life apart from tinkering with his car."

☐ A boy aged eight walking on Back Beach at Lyme Regis, Dorset, suffered head and back injuries when a 200lb rock fell from a cliff. James Mattock was airlifted to hospital by helicopter.

☐ A lost and inexperienced climber walked to safety off the hillside after a night stranded on Beinn Breac, in the Cairngorms. Hazel Gray, 47, from Edinburgh, ignored flares from a rescue team because she didn't know what they were.

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The survivor, Marcus Hill, after yesterday's tragedy. Below, the scene of the collapse where he tried to dig his friends out from under the rocks. He said: "They didn't see it coming and didn't have a chance to do anything"

Divers airlifted to hospital with bends

THREE amateur divers were recovering from the bends at a special medical unit in Belgium last night after a diving accident in the Channel (Dareh Gregorian writes).

The trio, all members of a diving club in Folkestone, Kent, were surfacing from a dive on a deep wreck near the Varne Light vessel, six miles off Dover, when one of the men lost his face mask and demand valve. He was forced to make a rapid ascent, losing several minutes of decompression time, and when he reached the surface was unconscious. His two companions spotted him going up and also surfaced too quickly.

A spokesman for the Dover coastguard, which co-ordinated the rescue, said: "One was unconscious when brought to the surface. The other two were conscious but needed specialist treatment."

They were suffering from compressed-air sickness, in which air or gases breathed under pressure are dissolved in the bloodstream and turn into bubbles of nitrogen.

The divers, whose names were not immediately released, would normally have been taken to a decompression chamber at Portsmouth, but fog forced the RAF Sea King helicopter which airlifted them from the diving vessel to fly to a military hospital in the Belgian port of Ostend.

Teenager sees two friends killed by train

By Stewart Tendler

TWO boys were killed by a passenger train at the weekend. The accident was seen by a friend who went for help to houses near by and led police officers to the scene.

The dead boys, aged 13 and 15, were hit on Sunday by a train travelling at 70 mph. Police were already on their way to Osmondthorpe, Leeds, after reports that children were throwing stones at cars from a bridge over the main Leeds to Selby road.

The train, travelling from Middlesbrough towards Leeds, came round a long bend on an embankment and the driver caught the youths in his lights but could not stop.

The 15-year-old died instantly. The second boy had severe head injuries and died at St James's Hospital in Leeds. Their friend was yesterday at home with his family, still too shaken to talk to police.

Inspector Daniel Snee, of the British Transport Police, said the train driver, who was also in shock, would have had only a couple of seconds to see the boys and had no chance of avoiding them. The lines in both directions were closed for several hours.

Mary Cheetham, who lives a few yards from the line, was alerted to the tragedy by the boy who escaped. She said: "There was a knock at the door and this young lad was there dressed in jeans, jumper and woolly hat.

"He was very upset and close to tears. All he said was his friends had been hit by a train. We called for an ambulance and he went outside to wait for the police."

Residents said children regularly crossed the line in their blazers and bags as a short cut. The track is fenced but police said that it was often breached by children climbing a five-bar gate.

A spokeswoman for Railtrack said: "Sadly, these boys seem to have been trespassing. It tends to happen predominantly in urban areas like this. We have tried to address the issues, but the sad fact is however good the fencing is we put up, people will get on the line."

Belgian stalks streets of Nottingham in hunt for father of wartime baby

By Robin Young

FRANK SHAW of Nottingham, ex-serviceman with a past, be warned. Gaby from Brussels is stalking the streets of your home town looking for you and she has brought along the daughter she says you fathered 51 years ago.

Gaby, 77, a married Bruxelloise, refuses to disclose her surname because, she says, her Belgian husband has no idea about the quest on which she and her daughter, Josette, 51, are engaged. Their mission is to find Gaby's former lover, Frank Shaw, a man she last saw in the final days of the war, 52 years ago.

Gaby, speaking from the hotel in Nottingham where she has set up her search headquarters, explained yesterday that she had set out on the hunt because her daughter was intent on meeting her unknown father.

What they know of Mr Shaw is quickly summarised. Gaby was 24 when she met and fell in love with him in 1945 in Brussels, when he was, she thinks, serving as batman to a captain in a regiment which could have been the Sherwood Foresters, stationed in Ixelles, a suburb of Brussels. Speaking through Bruno Vauthier, her interpreter, Gaby said yesterday: "I want to find Frank for the sake of my daughter who is desperate to meet her father, but I must be discreet."

Gaby said Mr Shaw had said he wanted to marry her, but balked when her family told him that Belgian tradition demanded that he would have to remain in Belgium with his bride and live with his mother-in-law. He refused and returned to England. Gaby's mother died only four months later, but by then the couple had severed their connections. A year later and with a year-old baby to look after, Gaby found she was unable to get by alone and married a Belgian, with whom she still lives in Brussels. M Vauthier added: "Gaby did try to contact Frank some years ago through an advertisement. She fears that he may have tried to find her but discovered she had a husband and decided not to pursue it.

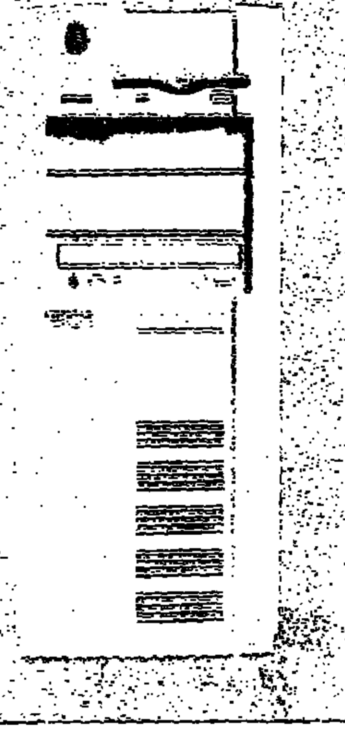
"Her sincere hope is that her visit will end in a reunion with the love she lost over 50 years ago."

Gaby said from her Nottingham hotel room: "I am just going to walk around the streets hopefully until I meet Frank. After all this time I am very nervous about it."

She said she had contacted the British Army but had not received much help because she could not be sure of Mr Shaw's old regiment. She also said she had telephoned every F. Shaw she could find listed in the telephone directory without result, and that her advertisement in local newspapers had drawn a blank.

She has now enlisted the aid of the assistance of the press, which can often bring quick results in such cases. So come in, Frank Shaw. Let us at least hope, for John Major's sake, that you are not a local Conservative Party chairman.

Desperately seeking Frank: Gaby, as she was in wartime Brussels and in Nottingham yesterday



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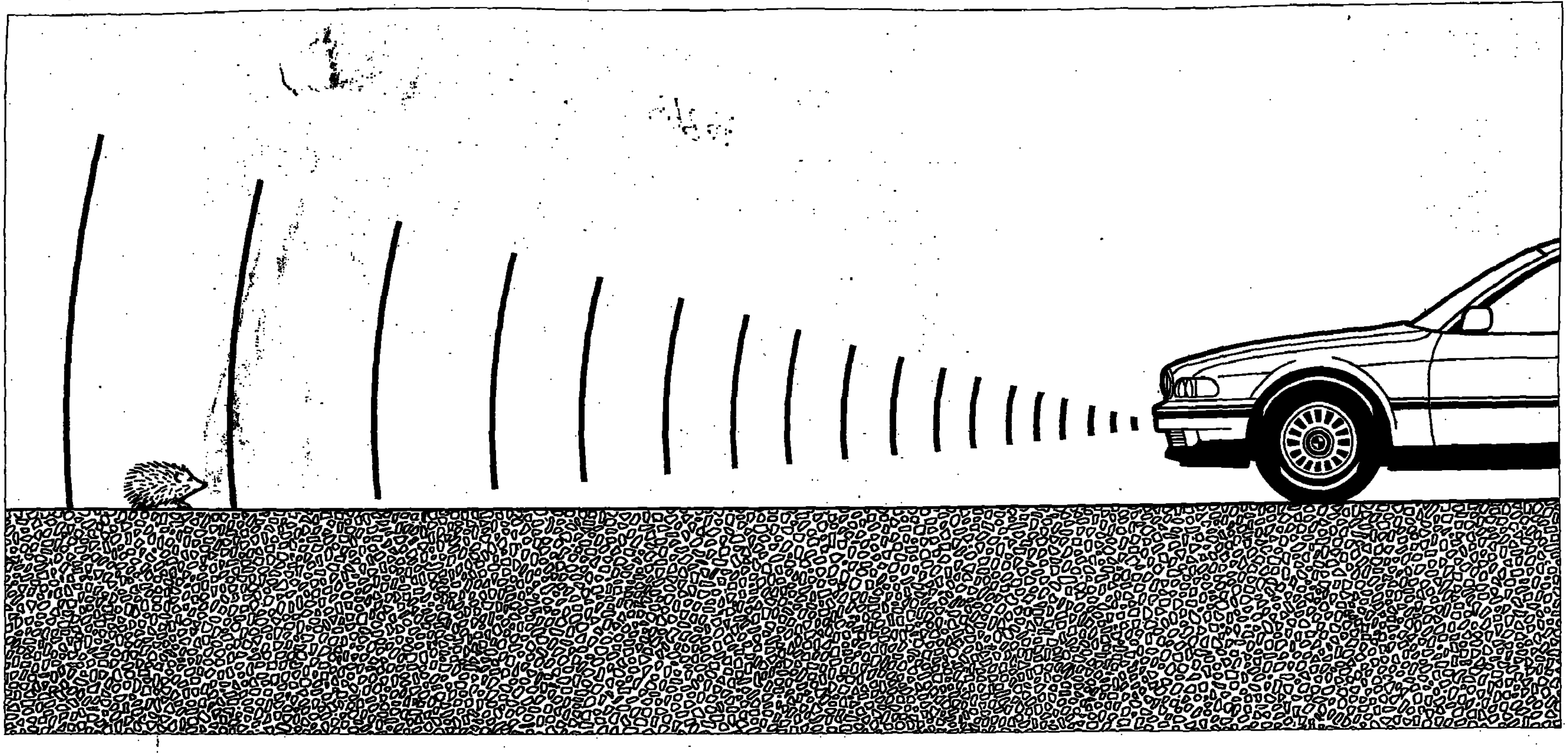

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Compulsory purchase saves former abbey which endured Henry VIII, tidal erosion – and pig farming

£1 sale of house that survived history's treacherous sands

By Marcus Binney, Architecture Correspondent

ONE of the finest Elizabethan houses in Wales was sold for £1 at the weekend. Rather larger is the £250,000 tag for moving a nearby pig-breeding unit which had rendered the house unsaleable.

Sker House in south Glamorgan stands alone among the sand dunes, a field away from the sea. But beneath is a foundation of solid rock which has enabled the house, which is of monastic origin, to survive while the nearby town of Kenfig was buried long ago beneath the sand.

At the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the abbey was sold to the Turbeville family, who added a great hall with a frieze of bird-headed men firing arrows at Welsh dragons. The Turbevilles were Roman Catholics, and in the 16th and early 17th centuries, several were fined and imprisoned for recusancy. One confessed to involvement in Titus Oates's *Popish Plot* of 1678, and a Jesuit priest was found hiding in the house.

The Turbevilles were forced to sell and the new owners left tenant farmers to run the place. In 1766, John Curre simply bequeathed the vast impractical pile to his manservant.

In 1977, Sker, by now a blackened wreck, was declared unsafe, and tenant farmers moved to a house nearby. Alas for Sker, a pig-breeding unit was built less than 100 yards away.

For the past seven years, the Buildings at Risk Trust, aided by Ogwr council, and latterly by Bridgend council, has battled to save Sker. Meanwhile, the owner hived off the house with just 3 ft of land around it into a £100 property company to avoid paying for repairs.

This weekend, the council resolved to activate a compulsory purchase order, which had been due to expire in 24 hours, enabling the Buildings at Risk Trust to acquire the freehold of the house and six acres. The lottery fund has offered £413,000 towards repairs, in addition to £250,000 promised by Cadw (the Welsh equivalent of English Heritage) for removal and reconstruction of the farm buildings.

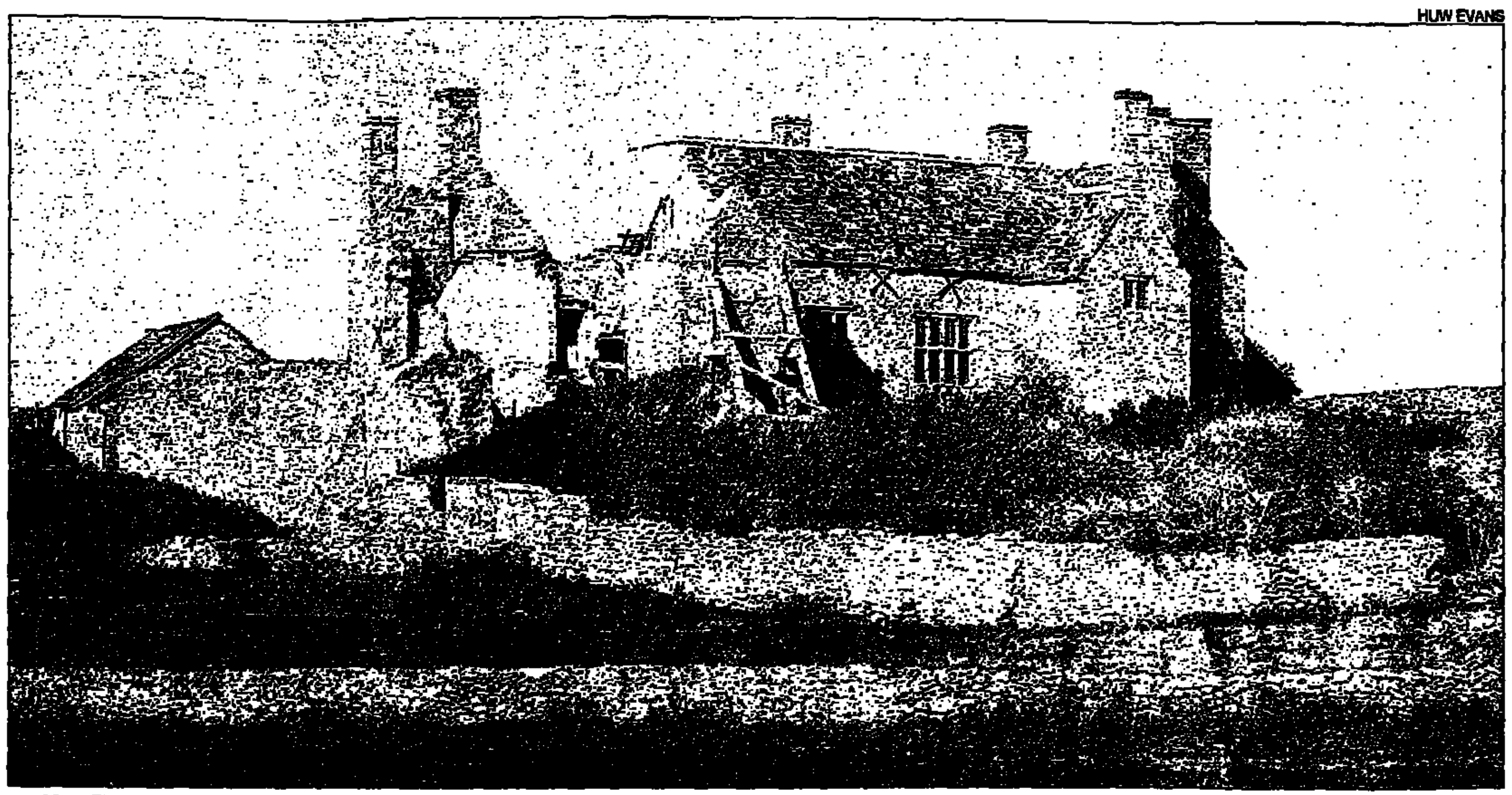
Ian Benrose, the trust's secretary, said: "This is the most significant use of the compulsory purchase procedure for a historic building in Wales."

Mike Davies, the architect who will supervise the repairs, added: "We will give the house a stone tile roof as it would have had in the 16th century. We will also lime-wash the rubble stone walls to protect them from the weather. We have found traces of blues, reds, whites and yellows and can take our pick from these colours. In the great hall on the first floor we have found 18th century graffiti which will be preserved."

Tom Lloyd, the trust chairman, added: "The best use would be for Sker to become a private house but it will have to be open at least 28 days a year. An alternative might be a restaurant; two of the finest golf links in Wales are near by."

The partial recovery in the property market is leading to a rise in divorce applications, solicitors and estate agents say. Couples who agreed to divorce several years ago, but became trapped in their homes because of negative equity, are now able to proceed. Mortage lenders also report a rise in the number of title deeds transferred from two names to one.

Agents' survey, page 41



HUW EVANS

Sker House, near Bridgend, which stands among sand dunes and belonged to the Turbeville family after the Dissolution of the Monasteries

Deborah Thomas: body found by firefighters

Poet found battered to death after house blaze

By A Staff Reporter

AN AMATEUR poet was found beaten to death in the attic bedroom she used for readings. The body of Deborah Thomas, 37, was discovered after firefighters were called to a blaze at her home in Brighton early on Sunday.

Miss Thomas had earlier left a nightclub with a pony-tailed man in his 20s. Her children, Douglas, 10, and Matilda, 5, had been staying with their father.

Friends mourned the death of the poet known as "Debo". Polly Marshall, of the spoken word club Do Tongues, said: "She had some wonderful material and performed regularly. She was well known in poetry circles locally."

Police were yesterday awaiting the results of a post-mortem examination. Detective Inspector Malcolm Bacon said it had been a brutal attack on a popular woman. "I have not heard of anybody with a bad word to say about her. She seems to have been a caring and emotional person."

Fake gun gives bus bandit a real fright

By Russell Jenkins

A LATTER-DAY highwayman met his match when he tried to hold up a bus on a council estate notorious for late-night violence. When he demanded the takings, the driver pulled out a revolver and fired three deafening shots. The robber staggered backwards, hit his head and knocked himself out.

The pistol was a replica and the .22 rounds were blanks but the 17-year-old robber did not know that. Bus driver Robert Amos, 44, jumped out from behind the wheel and called the emergency services. The youth was taken from the Racecourse estate, in Sale, near Manchester, to hospital for treatment to cuts and bruises and leisurely contemplation of another career.

Police have questioned Mr Amos and he has been bailed to appear at a police station at a later date. Opinion on the estate, where shopkeeper Ian Marshall, 48, was murdered last month by a raider, is divided over Mr Amos's exploit late on Saturday.

Mike Gardner, chairman of the Sale West Tenants' Association, said: "I cannot believe this bus driver was armed. It was an incredibly stupid thing to do." Freda Boyle, 64, a resident, said Mr Amos may have been "out of order" but he did what many of the "young devils" who hang about the estate at night deserve.

☐ Police have arrested one man and are seeking four more after a German family were attacked in Nottingham yesterday. The men, white and aged 25-30, attacked the family's car, which had German plates, at traffic lights.

Confused whale dies on mudflats

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

SIGHTSEERS wept yesterday as "Moby" the lost whale died on mudflats after more than two weeks trapped in the shallow waters of the Forth. The 40ft male had resisted all attempts to make it realise that it was swimming in the wrong direction.

The sperm whale emerged yesterday morning at Airth, more than ten miles inland, after days without a sighting. Exhausted and starving, almost its entire bulk lay exposed on the mud by the receding tide by 10am. Only the occasional sweep of the tail indicated it was still alive.

Local children raced to the scene on their bikes as word spread through the village. By 11.30, the whale was in obvious distress and gasping for breath. It began opening and shutting its mouth and made a final effort to heave itself back into the water.

Spectators watched from just feet away as the blow whale sank below mud and the animal's internal organs were crushed by its bulk. It gave a groan and stopped moving at about noon.

One little girl tugged at her father's sleeve and said: "Daddy, do something, push him out." Margaret Johnson, who has two children, Paul, 8, and John, 11, said: "We saw it from the bedroom window this morning. The kids are really upset."

Alex Kilgour, promotions manager at Deep Sea World, the North Queensferry marine centre which coordinated rescue attempts, said: "He died quickly, which is a relief as we had been told it could take up to 12 hours. Everyone is deeply upset. He touched the hearts of many people. We have had people phoning up in tears all day.

"He was meant to go down the west coast and instead he went down the east. Everything was done that could be done. We got him out to the open sea. He was confused and kept trying to head west, further up the river. We would like an international effort to prevent this happening again. We need a central base for equipment and experts from around the world working together. We will learn from Moby's death."

The Coastguard will invite companies to tender for the whale's disposal. It is likely to be cut up and buried elsewhere.

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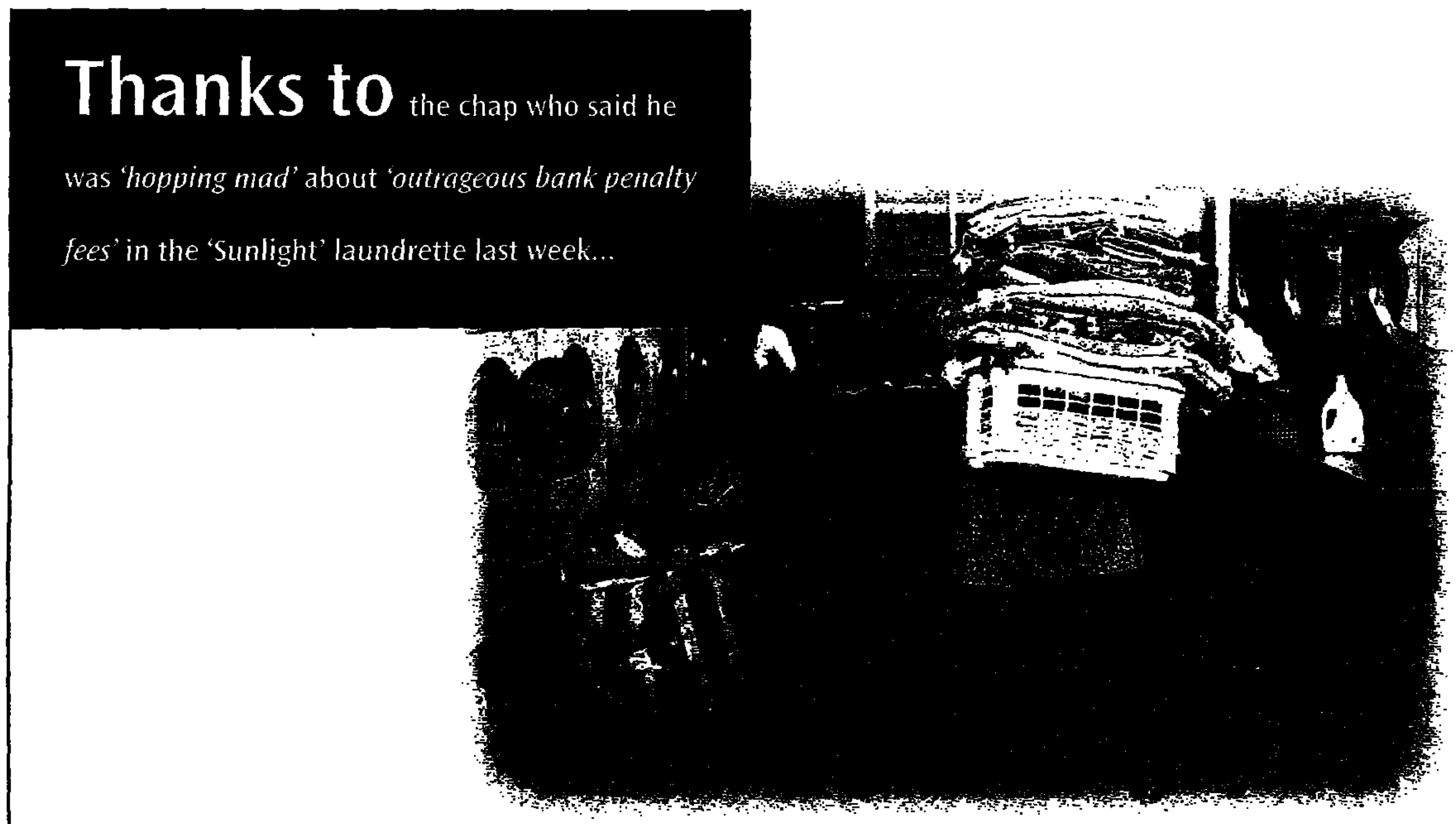

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Commissioners' decision to sell property and buy shares restores assets to record level of £3 billion

Church recovers fortune lost in 80s market crash

Colman: changed investment strategy

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

THE Church of England's assets have soared to a record £3 billion after the Church Commissioners recovered all the losses made from property speculation in the 1980s.

The Church's assets are now at a record high level after a year in which they have outperformed expectations. Michael Alison, , the Second Church Estates Commissioner, who, as MP for Selby, has been the vital link between Church and State in Parliament and who is stepping down at the election, said the recovery had been achieved by selling assets such as the MetroCentre in Newcastle, and reinvesting in stocks and shares. The Church's high concentration in property investments in the 1980s made it vulnerable to the property crash, and it lost £800 million.

The 1996 results, to be released at the end of next month, show the assets to be nearly £300 million higher than the 1995 figure of £2.7 billion, while income has remained steady at about £145 million. Even at the peak of the property market in 1989, just before the disastrous crash in asset values brought on a financial crisis, the Church's assets stood at £2.9 billion, less than they are today.

The total return on assets is well ahead of independent benchmarks used in the financial markets. In 1996 a 17 per cent return was achieved on assets, compared with the benchmark figure of 11 per cent. The Stock Exchange portfolio performance was in the top 1 per cent of pension funds in the WM All Funds index, at 17.4 per cent. The property return of 18 per cent was also better than the benchmark.

Mr Alison gave warning that there could be no easing up on donations from congregations because the Church was committed to paying pensions to retired clergy.

The Church is anxious to make parishes and dioceses as self-supporting as possible, paying as much towards clergy pensions and stipends as they can afford, so that the commissioners' income can be used for mission and aid to the most needy and in the poorest parishes.

Mr Alison, who has held his post for ten years, said: "Looking at the background to what happened to our investments, we started with one hand tied behind our back. We inherited a lot of agricultural land, nearly all farm tenancies with controlled rents and almost unsaleable because of security of tenure.

"It is not surprising that attempts were made to find other forms of property holdings like commercial or business property where there was no rent control." This left the Church over-exposed to the crash in the property market. But Mr Alison said: "We did not have huge holdings in the equity market at that time. So when the equity market collapsed in 1987 the Church Commissioners were singularly unaffected. But no one said a word."

The recovery has been made under the helmsmanship of Sir Michael Colman, First Church Estates Commissioner, who engineered the change in investment strategy after his appointment in 1993.

Mr Alison, who last year was asked 53 questions in Parliament, said that much of the increased interest in church affairs related to finances, clergy pensions and to proposed reforms in management drawn up by a commission set up under the Bishop of Durham and currently going through the General Synod.

Next year, Parliament will be asked to approve a synodical measure to bring the reforms into being. The number of commissioners will be cut and a large proportion of the income earned from the commissioners' assets handed over to a new Archbishops' Council, a cabinet-style central body.

Parliament recently approved a measure allowing the Church to set up its own pension fund, at a time when retired clergy are outnumbering serving clergy for the first time in the church's history.

Mr Alison, who attends Holy Trinity, Brompton, in Knightsbridge, said: "The Church Commission has shown itself to be extraordinarily adaptable in its capacity to look into the future. I am very sorry to be leaving when the ship is sailing full tilt into uncharted waters."

The current favourite to replace Mr Alison as Second Church Estates Commissioner is Stuart Randall, Labour MP for Hull West.

Priest among three arrested in jet plant

By Russell Jenkins

A PRIEST and three parishioners were arrested with four refugees from East Timor yesterday during a protest against the sale of aircraft to Indonesia.

They formed a human stepladder to climb the perimeter fence of the British Aerospace factory at Warton, Lancashire, at 5.30am. Father Arthur Fitzgerald, of St Michael's Church, Liverpool, then held an Easter liturgy inside the site, which produces Hawk jets for export to Indonesia.

The protesters read from the Bible, scattered poppy seeds and unfurled banners, then gave each BAe security worker an Easter egg. The other protesters were Ermenegildo Lopes, Moises da Costa, Amorim Vieira and Acacio Marques from East Timor, and Lizzie Jones, James Cookson and Julie Currall.

The protest began a day of peaceful action, described as a "prayer blockade", at the aircraft plant. At Liverpool Crown Court last year four women were acquitted by a jury of causing criminal damage to a Hawk jet on the site. The women argued that they had used reasonable force to try to prevent a crime — genocide in East Timor.

Since then peace campaigners have staged regular vigils outside the plant to highlight the plight of East Timor, where, it is claimed, 200,000 have died as a result of occupation by Indonesia.

Father Fitzgerald said: "We are here celebrating Easter alongside four men who have survived the genocide in East Timor. BAe Hawk jets are being used by the Indonesian regime to slaughter innocents in East Timor. This trade in death has to stop."

The eight were questioned at Lytham police station, near Blackpool, and were charged with trespass under the Civil Aviation Act.

Mr Lopes said: "I saw the Hawks in East Timor but I did not know they came from Britain. Now I live here and know they are made by British Aerospace. We call on Britain to stop supporting human-rights abuses in East Timor and to stop selling Hawks to Indonesia."

Ex-bishop calls for 'homosexual ethic'

By Dominic Kennedy, Social Affairs Correspondent

A RETIRED bishop has appealed for an "authentic Christian homosexual ethic" that will allow gay priests to be treated with equality in the Church of England.

John Baker, Bishop of Salisbury from 1982 to 1993, has effectively rejected the compromise on homosexuality reached when he chaired the House of Bishops, which issued the document *Issues in Human Sexuality* in 1991.

The Church was widely criticised at the time for telling vicars to abstain from homosexual sex while accepting that lay people could have relationships with people of the same sex, provided these were faithful and permanent in intention.

Dr Baker said he would attempt "to move the church logjam" in a lecture at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, later this month.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, has indicated his reluctance to reopen the gay debate, telling the Easter *Radio Times*: "As a Church we must make it very clear that homosexuality itself is not a major issue."

Dr Baker said: "The present position is not satisfactory. There is a basic flaw in the idea that homosexual practice is all right for lay people but not all right for the clergy."

Dr Baker was an outspoken liberal bishop. A vegetarian, he allowed animals to be blessed in his cathedral and let a vet read a lesson with a white rat on each shoulder.

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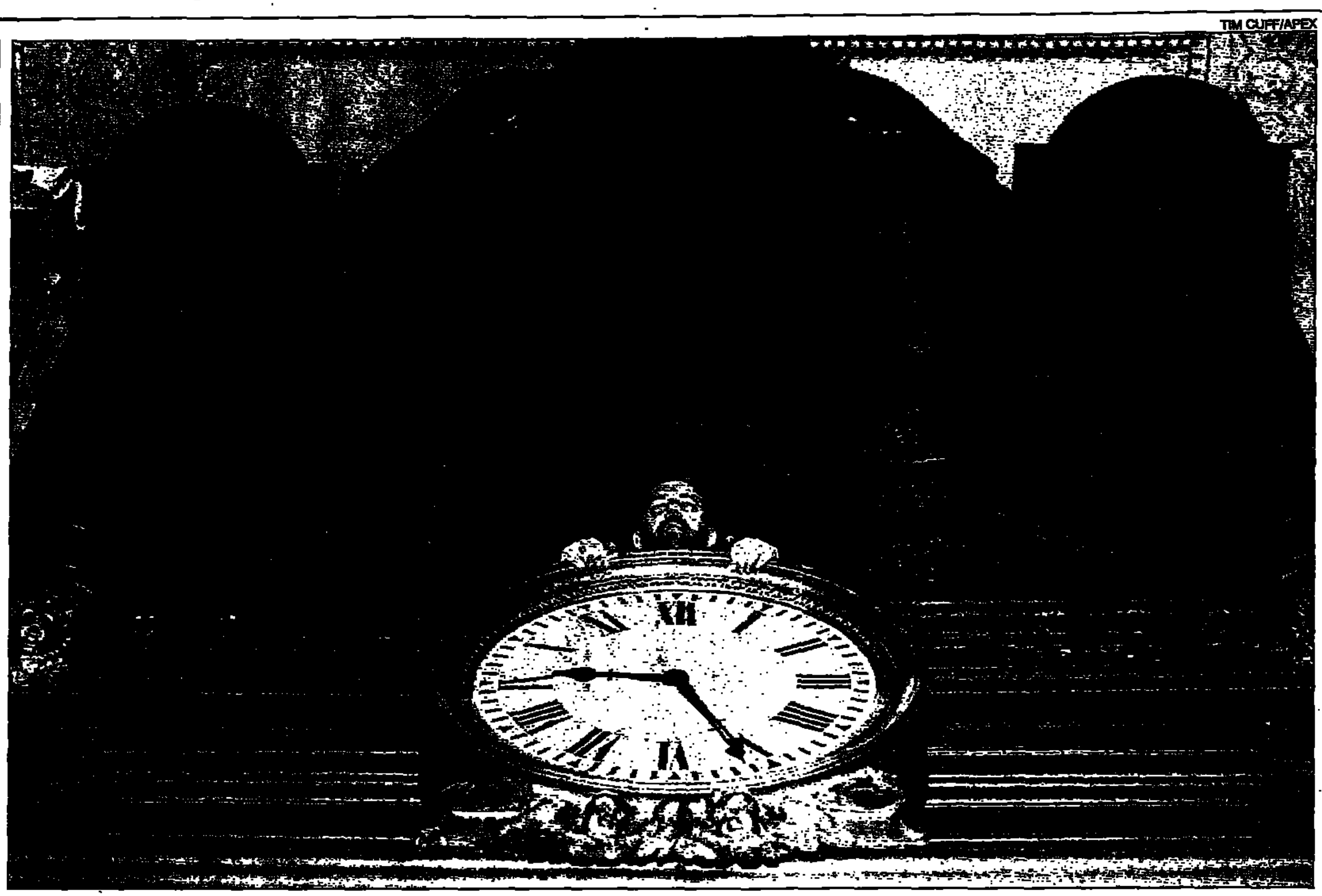

The giant organ at the historic Christ Church in Spitalfields. Below, William Drake examines the workings ready for restoration

Musical treasure reveals its secrets are safe and sound

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

A MUSICAL treasure has been found to be more complete than anyone realised. The 1735 church organ at Spitalfields, London, was once said to be the largest in England, but was feared to be unplayable after standing for years in a near-derelict site.

Now tests for restoration work have discovered that the action, mechanism and pipework are still the original work of Richard Bridge, who was the leading organ builder of his day and a favourite of Handel.

The organ is in Christ Church, the 1714 architectural masterpiece of Nicholas Hawksmoor. The church fell on hard times this century. It was closed for 30 years and stood in a near-derelict state surrounded by litter, its stonework blackening. The organ's restoration will take up to three years and cost an estimated £750,000. Roland Jeffrey, campaign director for the Friends of Christ Church, said: "It is even more complete than we dared hope."

William Drake, the organ builder who will carry out the restoration, described it as "a remarkable find". Although organs by Bridge survive at Shoreditch and Clerkenwell, they have undergone many more alterations than the one at Spitalfields.

Mr Drake, of Buckfastleigh, Devon, has also been commissioned to restore the organ at Buckingham Palace and to build a new instrument for the medieval Crypt Chapel of St Stephen's in the Palace of Westminster. He said: "Until one dismantles an organ, one never knows what material it contains from an earlier period. In this case, we knew a certain amount existed from the 18th century. Very excitingly, it has the original wind system. This will all make it easier to reconstruct. It will be the best preserved organ of this period in England." Most 18th-century organs underwent changes in the 19th century due to differences in musical taste: "They were looking for a larger sound, a more orchestral sound. The 18th century is a period from which a lot of this information has been lost."

The instrument, within a walnut case, cost £600 in 1735. A contemporary account said: "By the most competent judges, the tone is pronounced to be unexcelled, combining sweetness with great dignity, breadth and power."

Restoration funds are being sought from the lottery, English Heritage and private donors. Mr Jeffrey said that the organ would not be fully restored until work on the church was finished: "We don't want it to fill with dust and debris from building work." A Dutch musician, Gustav Leonhardt, has agreed to give the inaugural recital — if all goes to plan, in about five years.

Chickenpox, just a bad itch to most children, kills several adults a year

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

TERRI Yates, 26, of Herefordshire, has died from the chickenpox she caught in January while nursing her two-year-old son, Thomas, during his attack. Mrs Yates's death is a reminder that chickenpox can be a very much more severe disease in adults than it is in children. Patients of whatever age are also at risk of a severe attack if they are immuno-compromised, either by other diseases or drugs.

Before the age of ten chickenpox is usually no more than a nuisance. Within two or three weeks of infection, a child usually complains of a headache and gets mild flu-like symptoms and a slight temperature. A couple of days later the patient develops a rash, centred on the chest but also occurring on the abdomen and the upper parts of the limbs. In mild cases the face, hands and feet may escape spots altogether.

Within hours vesicles — blisters like teardrops beneath the skin — appear. They soon lose their clear appearance, start to ooze and then to crust over. The spots itch severely and every effort should be made to prevent scratching, which can cause secondary infection. The disease is usually past its peak within a week but the patient remains infectious until the last spot has crusted over. The virus is transmitted by droplets, sprayed into the atmosphere by coughing. Shingles is caused by a reactivation of the chickenpox virus which has been hidden in the central nervous system for years.

Every year several people die from chickenpox, but although fatal cases are rare, it makes adults very unwell, with a high temperature and a splitting headache. The rash is more dense and the face is often covered in spots. Spots also occur in the mouth, which can make swallowing difficult, and within the trachea, which can cause a persistent dry cough. The older the patient the more likely complications become. When someone is immuno-compromised the death rate from chickenpox, unless precautions are taken, is alarmingly high. Chickenpox is also dangerous to unborn children if it is caught late in pregnancy. Mrs Yates died of pneumonia. Pneumonia following chickenpox is often a very sudden onset and responds badly to treatment.

Encephalitis affects one person in a thousand with chickenpox, and has a particularly unpleasant feature — it often appears a fortnight after the patient thinks recovery is complete. Cerebral symptoms may be no worse than a headache and irritability but it can cause a wide variety of neurological damage, including cerebellar ataxia, a staggering gait and a complete loss of balance. Reye's syndrome encephalitis, accompanied by serious damage to the liver and other abdominal organs, is also an occasional complication of chickenpox. Aspirin makes it 30 times more likely and should not be given to anyone with chickenpox, whatever their age.

Where there is a very high risk of complications, prophylactic injections of the appropriate gamma-globulins should be given after contact with a case. In other cases, where the disease could be more severe than usual, acyclovyr, an anti-viral drug, should be given at the very first hint of chickenpox, but in ordinary cases the only treatment needed is an antihistamine to control the irritation.

Briton is jailed for killing his wife

A Briton living in Cyprus was jailed for 15 years yesterday for strangling his Cypriot wife and throwing her body out of the window of their second-floor apartment.

David Parris, 34, had pleaded not guilty to manslaughter, but the Assizes Court in Nicosia ruled that the factory worker beat and strangled his wife Avgoustina in a fit of rage at their home in the city. Parris's father, John, said they would appeal against the conviction.

The couple had two children and Mrs Parris had two from a previous marriage. They are being looked after by her parents. Parris moved to Cyprus from London nearly five years ago when the couple married.

Kitchen tragedy

A boy found fatally wounded in his kitchen is believed to have accidentally severed an artery in his chest with a knife. The boy, aged 12, from Kettering, Northamptonshire, died later in hospital. Police said the boy would probably not be named until today. An inquest is to be held.

Oil hits coast

Heavy oil leaking from the 3,000-ton *Cita*, which ran aground in Porth Hellick Bay in the Isles of Scilly during gales last week, drifted ashore as a salvage tug continued pumping fuel oil from the the German-owned cargo ship. Steve Watt, Scillies maritime officer, said the pollution was very slight.

Intolerant victim

The police officer leading Cleveland's Zero Tolerance anti-crime campaign put the policy into effect when he spotted two men trying to break into his car. Detective Chief Inspector Ray Mallon, who was visiting Hartlepool, gave chase and caught one man, aged 18, who has been charged with attempted theft.

HIV lessons

Health officials are to review their response to the case of an HIV-positive doctor. Gloucestershire Health Authority, criticised for refusing to name the doctor, Patrick Ngosa, and for keeping the issue secret for two weeks, is to study if there are "lessons that can be learnt". Dr Ngosa has left the country.

Cancer treatment

A possible treatment for a childhood cancer has been found by scientists studying a chemical normally used on people with severe acne. Researchers from the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, have identified a derivative of retinoic acid which is effective against the neuroblastoma tumour.

Conman at large

Cheshire police are hunting John Kemel, 49, of Warrington, who absconded from Ford Open Prison in West Sussex last year, after couples reported that he had promised to book foreign holidays and then disappeared with their cash. Police said: "This man is very plausible. He has distressed a lot of people."

Family law

A policeman was reprimanded for dealing with a case involving his daughter. PC Peter Ramsden, of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, should have passed it to other officers after finding that Anne, 20, was one of two women in a pub fight. The town's Labour MP, Barry Sheerman, called for an inquiry.

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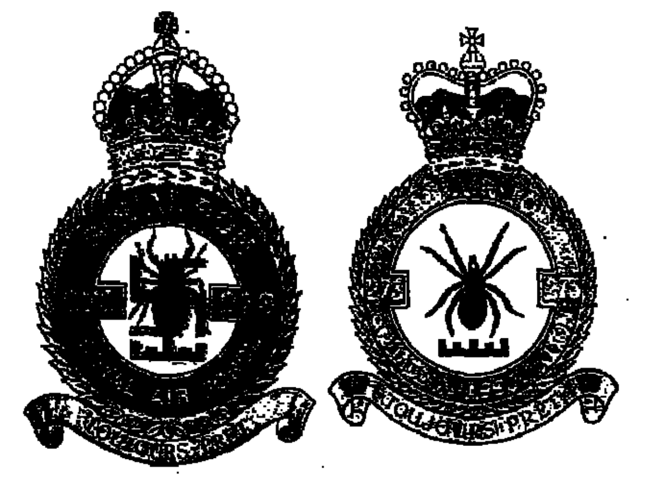
Perseverance pays off for RAF 'swastika' squadron

By John Young

AN RAF squadron that played a crucial role in the defeat of the Japanese in the Second World War has achieved official recognition more than half a century after it was disbanded. The Garter King of Arms has approved a new badge for the squadron association that will be dedicated at St Clement Danes, the RAF church in the Strand, on April 22.

The ceremony will mark the successful outcome of a long campaign by veterans and friends of 273 Squadron, including David Clark, Labour's defence spokesman in the last parliament, to have its achievements properly recognised.

The squadron was formed in 1918 and then reformed in Ceylon in August, 1939. It fought throughout the long and arduous campaign to recapture Burma in support of the Allied ground troops. Lord Mountbatten said of the RAF's role in the campaign: "Never have the land forces in any campaign owed more to their associated air forces."



The original badge, left, was rejected because of the swastika-like symbol, absent in the accepted version

Most squadrons were formed or reformed in Britain, where their badges were submitted for royal approval. Far from home, members of 273 squadron designed their own badge and sent it to the War Ministry in London for authorisation, only to be told nearly two years later that it was unacceptable.

The reason was thought to be that the design incorporated an ancient Asian peace symbol, the fylfot, which had been copied from the wall of a Buddhist temple near the squadron airfield in Ceylon. Unfortunately, the fylfot bore a close resemblance to the Nazi swastika, a resemblance which the RAF high command evidently found too close for comfort.

The squadron, which was too busy fighting to put forward a different design, was disbanded early in 1946, never having served as a unit in Britain. The original 273 Squadron badge was displayed during the war but never received official approval.

On their return home its members were told that, since the squadron no longer existed, a badge could not be granted retrospectively. Consequently it could not be commemorated, along with other squadrons, on the floor of St Clement Danes or in the RAF museum at Hendon.

Last June, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, confirmed in the Commons that the rule still applied. However, he added that a badge could be granted to an official squadron association. He also said that the trustees of St Clement Danes would give "sympathetic consideration" to an application for a memorial.

An association was duly formed last September under the presidency of Squadron Leader Jesse Hibbert, the squadron's last commander, who accepted the Japanese surrender in Saigon in 1945. The association has since been recognised by the Ministry of Defence as representing the interests of those who fought with the squadron in the war.

CHRIS HARRIS

Jane Pelling, whose brother Ian flew with 273 Squadron, and the Trevor Lay painting of Spitfires over Burma

A final hitch occurred when it was found that there was no space between 272 and 274 squadrons on the church floor. Instead, the new badge, without the fylfot and displaying the crown of the Queen instead of George VI, will have an honoured place next to that of No I Squadron, the oldest of them all.

Jane Pelling, whose late brother, Ian, flew with the squadron, has played a leading role in organising the campaign for recognition. She hopes that sales of a limited edition of prints will help to defray part of the cost. The painting of Spitfitres flying over Burma, by Trevor Lay, is a rare depiction of the famous fighter aircraft operating outside the European theatre.

Channel 5 wins over first-night audience

By Alexandra Frean

CHANNEL 5 was celebrating yesterday after viewing figures for its opening night exceeded its predictions and those of Channel 4.

Unofficial figures for Sunday gave the new channel a 5.8 per cent share of all viewing during the peak hours of 6.30pm and 10.30pm. Sally Osman, head of corporate affairs, said: "There was a lot of publicity about the launch. Nevertheless this is a very good result, especially when only 60 per cent of people can receive Channel 5. We are aiming for an overall 5 per cent by the end of the year." The introductory programme, starring the Spice Girls, drew the biggest audience, 2.3 million people.

Channel 4, which has an average audience share of about 11 per cent, attracted 4.7 per cent during peak time. A spokesman said: "It is a good start for Channel 5, but it does not necessarily indicate what the long term will be."

☐ Channel 4 is to run a twice-yearly programme, *Trial and Error*, appealing for viewers to solve miscarriages of justice and clear convicted prisoners, using reconstruction techniques similar to the BBC's *Crimewatch UK*.

Research finds root of E. coli's resistance

By Nigel Hawkes

SCIENTISTS have discovered a powerful new mechanism by which bacteria can resist antibiotic drugs. The finding suggests that it may become increasingly difficult to treat bacterial infections.

Eitan Bibi and Rotem Edgar, of the Weizmann Institute in Rehovoth, Israel, discovered the new mechanism while studying drug resistance in *E. coli*, the common gut bacterium. The 0157 form has killed 20 people in Scotland recently.

The scientists report in *Journal of Bacteriology* that they found in the bacterium a molecule, which they called MdfA, capable of acting as a pump to eject toxic compounds and other unwanted materials from the cell. These unwanted materials might include potentially lifesaving drugs.

The fact that virtually all organisms have such systems in their cells is known, but the Israeli researchers found that MdfA is remarkably effective in expelling many different types of drugs.

"This highlights the dormant potential of some bacteria to survive even complex antibiotic treatments, and presents a challenge for future therapies," Dr Bibi said.

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Secret papers show 104 Nazis found haven with Franco

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

GENERAL FRANCO gave refuge to more than 100 active German Nazis at the end of the Second World War and provided many with new identities, according to a classified Allied document published here in the newspaper *El País*.

The revelation will excite historians and biographers of Franco, most of whom believed that the Caudillo kept a scrupulous distance from the seamier side of Hitler's wartime enterprise.

The 11-folio document, unearthed in the archives of the Spanish Ministry of External Affairs, lists the names, possible addresses in Spain and wartime activities of 104 Germans. The men were members of the SS, Gestapo or Abwehr — the military counter-intelligence service run by Admiral Canaris.

The catalogue of names, entitled the *Repatriation List*, was compiled by the Allied secret services, including MI5. It was presented to the Franco regime in late 1945, as a preliminary basis for extradition proceedings. The Spanish Government, however, refused to hand over a single man. There is no recorded explanation of why the Allies did not persevere with their repatriation demands.

Many of the Nazis identified in the document were members of Spain's large German community when war broke out in 1939. According to the newspaper, they volunteered enthusiastically for the Nazi cause, serving mainly in the Abwehr.

A number of them were businessmen in the Basque country, then Spain's industrial heartland, and were active in the clandestine supply from Spain to Germany of essential raw materials such as tungsten. The Franco regime was paid in gold by the German Government, much of it stolen from Jews and shipped to Madrid with the help of the Swiss National Bank.

According to *El País*, Abwehr members in Spain included Friedrich Lipperheide, a German entrepreneur who made a fortune before the war in the Basque country.

But his son, Federico, a board member of Banco Bilbao Vizcaya, Spain's most powerful bank, denied his father was a Nazi. He said: "That is false. In fact, he hated them."

El País says that all but one of the people named in the document are dead. The survivor, identified by the newspaper as Hans Juretschke, 88, a former professor in the department of German literature at Madrid's Complutense University, said: "I had nothing to do with politics. During the war I had to follow the orders of the German Government. It happened to be a Nazi Government."

Albanian threat to Italian-led aid force

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

DESPITE the misgivings of military experts and opposition politicians, Italy will agree final details tomorrow for a multinational intervention force in Albania.

Greece and Romania declared their readiness yesterday to commit troops alongside Italy, France, Spain and Turkey. Military commanders from the Mediterranean coalition meet in Rome tomorrow and half the force — about 3,000 men — is expected to go into action "within the next two weeks", supported by light armour, with the rest held in reserve.

But in a sign of the obstacles the force will face in "pacifying" Albania and protecting aid convoys, rebel leaders in the southern port of Vlore gave a warning that Italian troops would be killed.

JOCKEL FINCK / AP

Relatives in Albania's port of Vlore mourn victims of the refugee ship which collided with an Italian vessel

Thousands of people in Vlore turned out to condemn Italy for an incident late last Friday when an Italian corvette collided with an Albanian vessel packed with refugees that it was trying to intercept. Survivors say more than 100 people, mainly women and children, died, although Italy says only four bodies were recovered. Thirty-four survived. President Berisha ordered flags to stand at half-mast throughout Albania yesterday, and MPs in Tirana stood for a minute's silence.

"The Italian aim is to stabilise Albania and so stem the tide of refugees to Italy," a European diplomat said. "But the mood has turned against Italy because of this tragedy". Vlore, 40 miles across the Adriatic from Italy, has such close links with the former colonial power that its cafés bear Italian names and its people speak Italian fluently.

Italian defence officials said the "international protection force", to be deployed in rotation, would consist of 2,000 to 2,500 Italian troops, with 1,000 from France, 700 from Greece, 500 each from Spain and Turkey, and 400 from Romania, with a few from Hungary and Austria. Switzerland and Slovenia have offered police.

Le Pen launches plan to send migrants home

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S National Front wound up a tumultuous party congress in Strasbourg yesterday by outlining an election platform that the party leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, proclaimed would be a passport to parliament.

The party called for the repatriation of immigrants, the reinstatement of the death penalty and the repeal of laws banning the incitement of racial hatred which the National Front claims infringe freedom of speech.

The party argued that sending millions of immigrants home would be an act of kindness. "If France is hard hit by unemployment, Third World nations suffer from a cruel lack of qualified workers . . . sending immigrants home would thus be a benefit to both parties," the party's officials declared.

Another National Front working group proposed that France's birth rate could be boosted and marriage encouraged by giving salaries to mothers providing, of course, they are native-born French citizens.

Meanwhile, the Left hailed a weekend rally by at least 40,000 people opposed to the ultra-nationalist party as proof of the Front's unpopularity, but many observers say the demonstrations have played into M Le Pen's hands by propelling him and his xenophobic ideology into the political limelight.

Mégret: emerging as the heir apparent

Re-elected unopposed as leader, M Le Pen has taken full advantage of the avid media attention, portraying himself as the head of a band of incorruptible outcasts unfairly victimised by the political establishment. Supporters of the National Front are a "caste of less-than-citizens, pariahs who remind us of plague victims during the Middle Ages or the Jews of Nazi Germany", M Le Pen told 2,200 National Front delegates. Certainly, many of M Le Pen's detractors would agree with his plague comparison and, for a politician repeatedly accused of anti-Semitism, his reference to the persecution of Jews was calculated to enrage.

Rioting after Saturday's rally led to dozens of arrests and four members of the National Front — a regional councillor and three of the party's security personnel — remained in custody yesterday after they allegedly masqueraded as policemen and beat up some protesters.

M Le Pen, 69, has consistently refused to discuss his possible successor as leader, but Bruno Mégret, his deputy and the principal party ideologist, has emerged from the congress as the party's most likely heir apparent. Widely regarded as the real victor when his wife was elected Mayor of Vitrolles earlier this year, M Mégret won most votes in elections for the central committee.

Belarus and Russia to sign unity pact

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

THE Presidents of Russia and Belarus are due to sign an accord tomorrow on the creation of a union of the two countries as the first step of a grandiose plan for the political, economic and military reintegration of the former Soviet Union.

The agreement, details of which have not been made public and which was drawn up without consulting either parliament, has been roundly condemned by liberal politicians in Russia, as well as nationalists in Belarus who regard it as a serious erosion of independence.

It flouts the mood of other leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States, who at last weekend's Moscow summit showed they are more interested in strengthening national sovereignty than moving towards reintegration into a de facto Russian-led superstate.

The treaty appears to be based on a draft submitted by President Lukashenko of Belarus to President Yeltsin. This provides for a Supreme Council, to be chaired by the two Presidents on a rotating basis and including the two Prime Ministers and parliamentary Speakers. It envisages a single currency and co-ordinated economic and social policies.

Mr Lukashenko, 42, has made no secret of his desire to tie his bankrupt and unreformed country — where production has fallen since the Soviet Union's collapse and few goods can be found on shelves outside the capital, Minsk — to the relatively powerful Russian economy.

Since his landslide election in 1994 on an anti-corruption platform, the former farm director has scrapped nationalist symbols for the Soviet emblems of the past and denounced the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Russian political and economic analysts point out that any attempt to unite two economies that have become so diverse in the past five years would place an intolerable burden on Russia. There has been virtually no attempt in Belarus to stabilise the currency, curb inflation or reorganise industry and agriculture.

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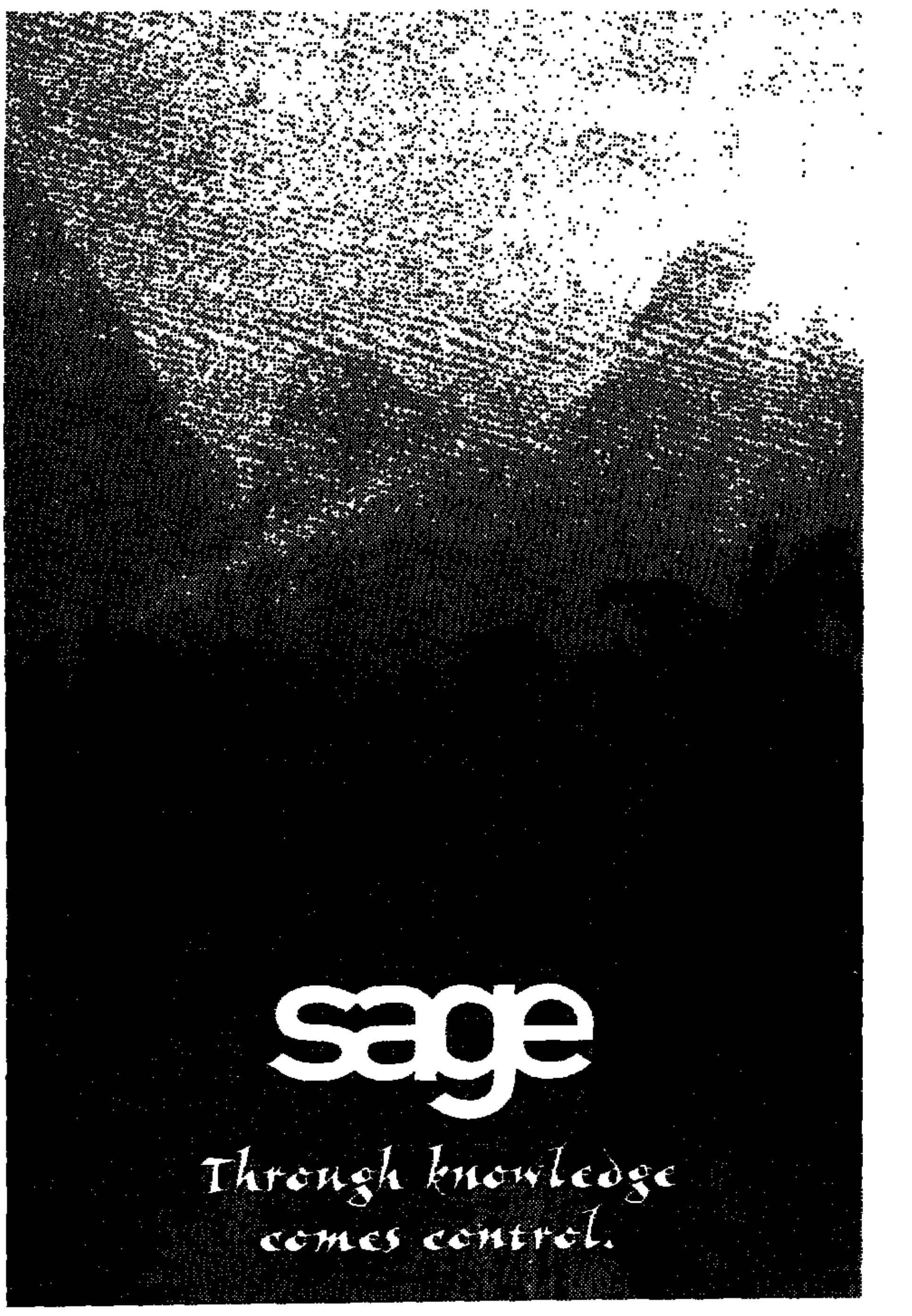

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Suicide cult crew 'on space odyssey'

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

AS THEIR earthly bodies are cremated in San Diego, the 39 dead members of the Heaven's Gate cult are almost a week into their long-awaited space odyssey to the realm of the Hale-Bopp comet, a former member of the sect has declared.

Some of the suicide cult's beliefs, dismissed by mainstream America as evidence of outright lunacy, are still cherished by a stubborn few who once followed its leader and wish they had gone with him to the "Next Level", it was revealed in interviews at the weekend.

"I believe they are on a spacecraft somewhere," Nick Cooke, a former disciple of Marshall Applewhite, the cult leader, told a San Francisco radio station. "Whether it's behind the comet or not I really don't know but I wish I had the strength to have stuck it out and gotten stronger and continued to be a part of that group."

Mr Cooke, whose wife stayed in the cult and was among the victims of last week's mass suicide in Rancho Santa Fe, said he did not believe she was dead but merely transported out of the "shell" or "container" of her body into a literal Heaven as a benevolent alien.

"I don't believe that she committed suicide," said Mr Cooke's daughter, Kelly, whose parents both deserted her for the cult when she was ten. "Suicide is a strong word to use when you consider that this is something she worked for all her life," she added.

Meanwhile, two investors have made offers near the $1.6 million (£1 million) asking price for the cult's rented "mansion of death", an estate agent said. The investors hoped to "save the neighbourhood" by buying the property and tearing it down, the agent said.

Next Nato commander is Oxford graduate

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON has chosen an army general who, like him, grew up in Arkansas and attended Oxford as a Rhodes scholar, to be the next military commander of Nato and head of US forces in Europe. General Wesley Clark will take over from General George Joulwan, who is due to retire this summer.

General Clark brings formidable skills to the task. He has been on the fast track ever since leaving West Point. He speaks Russian and was the senior military member of the team led by Richard Holbrooke that negotiated the Dayton peace accords that halted fighting in Bosnia.

As Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Clark will have to deal with Nato's expansion, relations with a suspicious Russia and the promised withdrawal of Nato forces from Bosnia next year. "We wanted someone who is both a soldier and a statesman, someone with diplomatic and policy experience," a Pentagon official said. William Cohen, the Defence Secretary, recommended General Clark after interviewing more than a dozen generals.

An aspect of General Clark's career that has attracted attention is the extent to which his and Mr Clinton's paths have crossed. At 52, the general is only two years older than the President.

Clark: "wide diplomatic and policy experience"

There has been a widespread but mistaken impression that the general and the President have enjoyed a long association, but they did not know each other in Arkansas, where they grew up in different towns, and their periods at Oxford did not overlap. He left Oxford with a master's in philosophy, politics and economics.

The two men first met during a student conference at Georgetown University in Washington in 1965 and did not see each other again for 19 years when General Clark, visiting his parents in Little Rock, dropped in to see Mr Clinton who was by then Governor of Arkansas. Two years ago, when Mr Clinton was asked if he knew General Clark, he is said to have replied: "I know Wes Clark, and he hasn't needed any help from me."

His "ticker" was punched in all the right places on his way to the top: as well as his Oxford master's he attended national war college and general staff college; was a company commander in Vietnam: a battalion and division commander; held a White House fellowship; was head of army training and director of strategy, Pentagon joint staff. At Nato headquarters, he was a senior military assistant to Alexander Haig, a former commander.

General Clark is at present head of Southern Command, based in Panama, the senior American military post in Latin America. General Joulwan, too, held the Southern Command appointment before moving to the post of Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

Nato's supreme commander is always an American, but France is embroiled in a rift with the US over why that should also be true for command of the alliance's forces in southern Europe. The Clinton Administration is refusing to yield to French demands for a non-American in the post.

ANGELA PETERSON / AP

Aesha, a white tiger, grooms her two cubs born at the weekend in Oviedo, Florida. The birth of the animals, whose sex is not yet known, brings the known total of the species to 62 individuals, all in captivity

Air ace wins honour of Yamamoto kill

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A FIGHTER ACE in the Second World War has won his long battle for recognition for shooting down the mastermind of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

US Air Force Colonel Rex Barber, 79, has been awarded full credit by fellow veterans for killing Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander of Japan's Imperial Fleet, in one of the most celebrated missions in the Pacific.

The American Fighter Aces Association — for pilots who each shot down at least five planes — has ruled that Colonel Barber shot down Admiral Yamamoto's bomber "alone and unassisted".

Colonel Barber has always had to share credit for the extraordinary ambush of Japan's top admiral with his former friend and fellow-pilot, Colonel Thomas Lanphier, who died in 1987.

"It's a good bonus all right," Colonel Barber said yesterday from his home in Terrebonne, Oregon. Colonels Barber and Lanphier were pilots in the 339th Fighter Squadron of 16 Lockheed P38 Lightning fighters based at Guadalcanal. On April 18, 1943, their squadron was ordered to intercept Yamamoto as he flew on an inspection tour from Rabaul in New Guinea to the Solomon Islands.

It is widely accepted that Colonel Barber hit Yamamoto's bomber first, but Lanphier said he also fired at it. Since neither fighter was equipped with camera gunsights, there is no photographic evidence to verify the claims. "I came in behind him and shot," Colonel Barber said. "He was smoking pretty badly, especially the right engine. Suddenly, he flipped up on one wing and I almost collided with him ... he crashed into the jungle."

Yamamoto: his plane went down in jungle

The mission was kept secret until the end of the war to protect the fact that US Navy codebreakers had deciphered Japan's communications code. After the war, Lanphier was the first to go public with his claim to have shot down the Japanese commander. *The New York Times* told his story in September 1945.

"He had great visions of being a great man," Colonel Barber said. "He did anything he could to get all the glory for himself."

The American Fighter Aces Association has settled the case as a matter of honour, but its decision is not binding on the US Air Force and the official record is expected to remain unchanged.

McVeigh bomb jury selection begins

FROM TOM RHODES IN DENVER

JURY selection for the trial of Timothy McVeigh over the Oklahoma City bomb began in Denver, Colorado, yesterday with about 350 potential jurors being questioned.

The jury pool will be whittled down to 64 before the panel of 12 and six alternates are finally chosen. Both sides are believed to be employing expert jury consultants, including Donald Vinson, who worked on the O.J. Simpson criminal trial, who is reportedly helping Joseph Hartzler, the chief prosecutor.

The Simpson case left an indelible mark on America and McVeigh jurors, unlike their predecessors in Santa Monica, may return home at weekends. Judge Richard Matsch has guaranteed their anonymity.

Paid $40 (£25) a day, rising to $50 after a month, the jurors will hear a largely circumstantial prosecution case. The Government has no witnesses who can place Mr McVeigh in Oklahoma City on the day of the attack and many survivors fear he has a chance of walking free.

However, the defence yesterday faced the daunting task of selecting a jury that could ignore Mr McVeigh's many published alleged confessions to the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building on April 19, 1995.

"If there was ever a trial in American history where the defendant needed honest and candid responses from potential jurors, it's this trial," said Robert Hirschhorn, a jury consultant working for Terry Nichols, Mr McVeigh's co-accused, who is to be tried separately.

Despite the fact that 168 people were killed in the bombing, the two men are charged with only eight counts of first-degree murder. This is because such charges in federal courts are reserved for the alleged killing of government law enforcement officers on duty. Frank Keating, the Governor of Oklahoma, has indicated that murder charges relating to the 160 other people killed in the blast may be filed later in state courts. The two men are also accused of three bomb-related offences.

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Israel ridicules threatened renewal of Arab boycott

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL ridiculed the call from the 22-member Arab League to reimpose an economic boycott on the Jewish state and accused the Arabs yesterday of scheming to topple the right-wing Government of Binyamin Netanyahu.

The war of words erupted as violence between Israeli troops and stone-throwing Palestinian rioters continued for the twelfth consecutive day. In the West Bank town of Jenin, one of those given Palestinian self-rule as part of the now threatened peace plan, Israeli troops firing rubber bullets wounded two Palestinians as they were attacked by a crowd of 200. Throughout the West Bank, Israeli tanks and assault helicopters remained on alert in case violence worsened.

Diplomats said that the rapid deterioration in relations between Israel and the Arab world had increased the urgency for President Clinton, who is meeting King Hussein of Jordan in Washington this week, to launch a diplomatic initiative in an attempt to defuse the increasing tensions.

The new erosion in the hopes for peace generated by the 1993 Oslo peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians came with a resolution from the Arab League in Cairo recommending member states to suspend normal relations with Israel and to reinstate the Arab boycott, which has largely fallen into disuse.

David Levy, the Israeli Foreign Minister, said that the Arab move, taken in protest against the continued building of a settlement for 32,000 Jews at Har Homa in annexed east Jerusalem, was part of a determined attempt to try to overthrow Mr Netanyahu's Government. "The peace process does not tolerate and will not tolerate an atmosphere of violence, not on the ground and not in diplomatic violence," Mr Levy said as members of the Likud coalition rallied in support of the Prime Minister.

In a combative interview with Israel radio, Mr Netanyahu accused the Arabs of "ganging up" on Israel and expressed anger with Egypt, which hosted the League summit and which is seen by Israel as failing to take action to halt a takeover of the League by radicals.

"I was deeply disappointed [in the attitude of Egypt]", Mr Netanyahu said. "The Egyptians have got to make up their minds: what do they want, a Middle East of peace or a Middle East of perpetual conflict?" He responded with scorn to suggestions by the interviewer that the decision to go ahead with Har Homa, which has prompted street violence in which nearly 500 Palestinians have been injured, might be reversible.

Mr Netanyahu dismissed the call for a renewal of the Arab boycott. "It is an absurd idea that the boycott will be reinstated. It is not to be reinstated because it cannot be reinstated. We live in an open world, economic currents flow. Israel is a technological power with many, many ties to many, many countries.

"I say [to the Arabs]: leave the past behind and go to the future. The only way to resolve our differences is to talk to one another about them, not to try and coerce Israel by these pressure tactics or by fear, or by violence or by terror. We will not be cowed."

Mr Netanyahu made clear that there was no question of reopening peace talks with Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader, until he proved that he was making a determined effort to root out Islamic terrorists.

In Cairo, Farouq al-Shara, the Syrian Foreign Minister, was jubilant after the boycott decision was taken and said he was confident that those Arab states that had been considering normalising ties with Israel would have to comply.

Leading article, page 19

Home bulldozed

Zurif, West Bank: An Israeli army bulldozer yesterday demolished rooms in the home of a Palestinian militant who had detonated a bomb in a Tel Aviv café last month, killing himself and three Israeli women. *(AP)*

SAVITA KIRLOSKAR / REUTER

Speculators rush to sell shares outside Bombay Stock Exchange yesterday as a governmental crisis pitched India into a period of uncertainty

Indian MPs barter coalition votes for cash

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S 13-party coalition Government was told yesterday to seek a vote of confidence by April 11. There will now be an intense period of "suitcase politics", the illegal practice of handing bags of money to MPs in return for their support.

The custom, also known euphemistically as horse-trading, could determine the shape of the Government. H. D. Deve Gowda, the Prime Minister, stands little chance of saving his administration after losing the parliamentary support of the Congress party on Sunday.

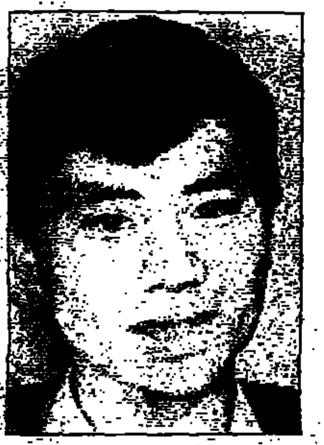
Four days of talks in Delhi between India and Pakistan, the first in three years and the most promising in decades, ended yesterday effectively in ruins because of the political upheaval. There was no point in Pakistan making overtures to what could be a dying Government and the Indian side lost political momentum as the administration tottered. Both sides ended the session with expressions of hope for the future: itself a mark of progress, but meaningless while India has no viable Government. It was agreed to resume the talks in Islamabad at a date to be fixed.

Sitaram Kesri, president of the Congress party, said last night that he was confident of getting enough support to form a new administration under his prime ministership. His decision to withdraw support from the Government took the party by surprise — save for its inner circle — and was described by some as a "death wish" because of the danger of failure.

Sharad Pawar, a senior party leaders, said it was "a bolt from the blue". Most MPs are still baffled why Mr Kesri did it. He is under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation in various cases, including the alleged bribery of MPs before a confidence vote that was narrowly won by the last Congress-led Government. The circumstances of the death of his former physician are also being investigated.

Mr Kesri's attempt to gain power seems to have been launched in extraordinary haste, leading to speculation about some unexplained personal motivation. His party has 46 fewer MPs than the United Front coalition. -

Mr Gowda hopes that the Congress party will split so that he can capture the support of a chunk of its MPs, particularly those allied to Mr Pawar, with whom he has a close relationship.



Wang: second long term in prison

Chinese Communists insist they hold no political prisoners

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

BEIJING declared yesterday that there were no political prisoners in China and described more than 2,000 "counter-revolutionaries" as criminals.

The Government also congratulated France on dropping its co-sponsorship of a United Nations resolution criticising China's human rights record.

Zhang Xiufu, the Executive Deputy Minister of Justice, said: "In China counter-revolutionary prisoners are not political prisoners, they are prisoners who have endangered national security ... or have conducted activities to overthrow the political power of China."

This includes prisoners like Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan, who are serving their second long prison sentences, imposed at their brief trials for what they had written. A recent US State Department annual human rights report on China observed that all public dissent had been silenced.

The Chinese statement on political prisoners came two days after Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, said in Beijing: "America cannot remain silent about the lack of freedom — speech, religion, assembly, the press — in China."

Yesterday the official *People's Daily* newspaper congratulated France for announcing that it would not sponsor a motion for the forthcoming UN meeting in Geneva on human rights condemning China's record. "This is a wise decision," the paper said. A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Friday: "We know that the rule of law is far from being established in China and that this process will take time, but a choice must be made between a confrontation that is cut off from reality and a constructive dialogue".

Shen Guofang, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said he hoped other countries would follow the French example, but added that even dialogue must not be "a tool for exerting political pressure".

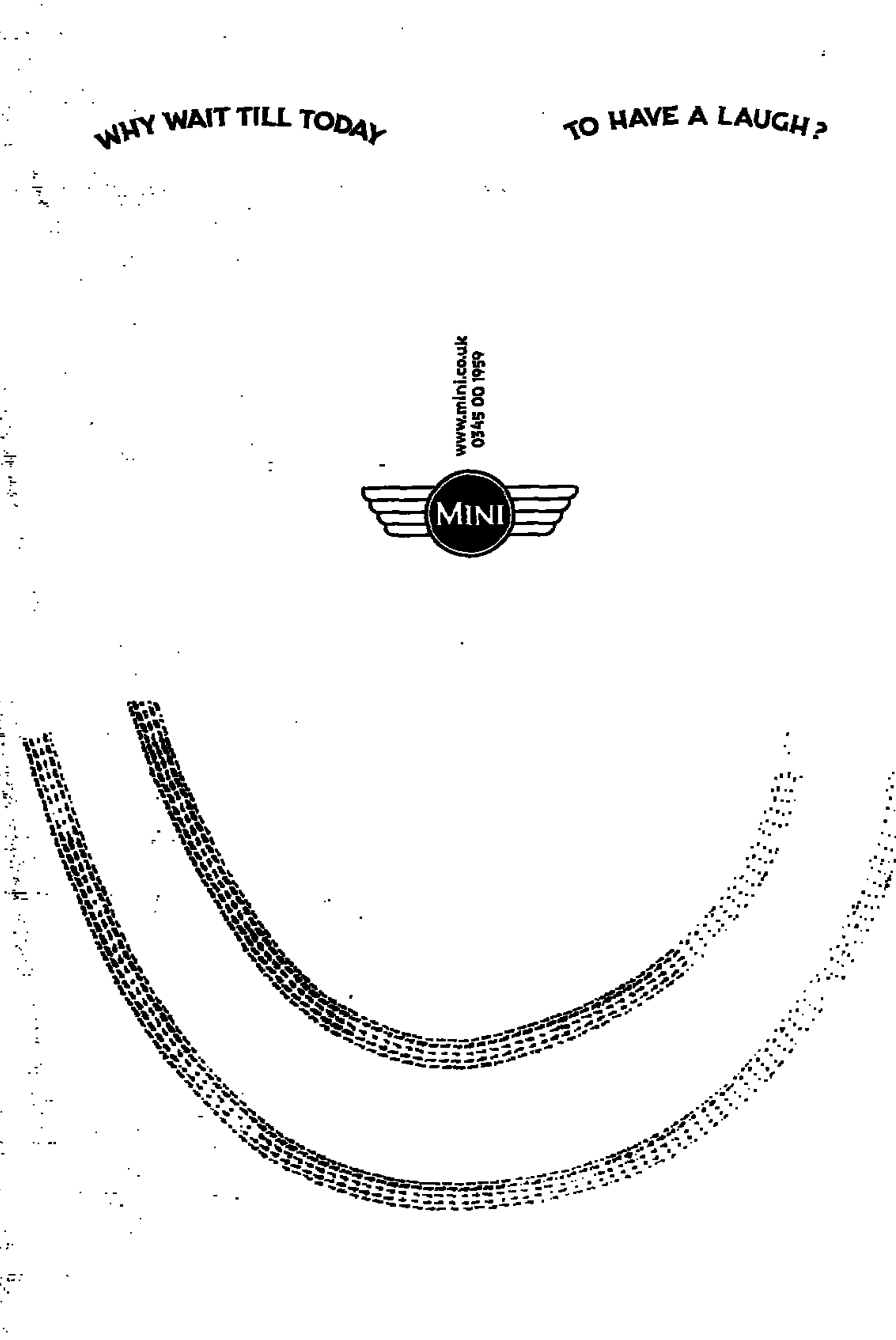
Over the weekend Yukihiko Ikeda, Japan's Foreign Minister, told Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, that Tokyo was also considering dropping its support for the UN resolution. The US has said it will support the move, which is defeated each year after Beijing mobilises support from other countries with human rights problems, such as Burma and Indonesia.

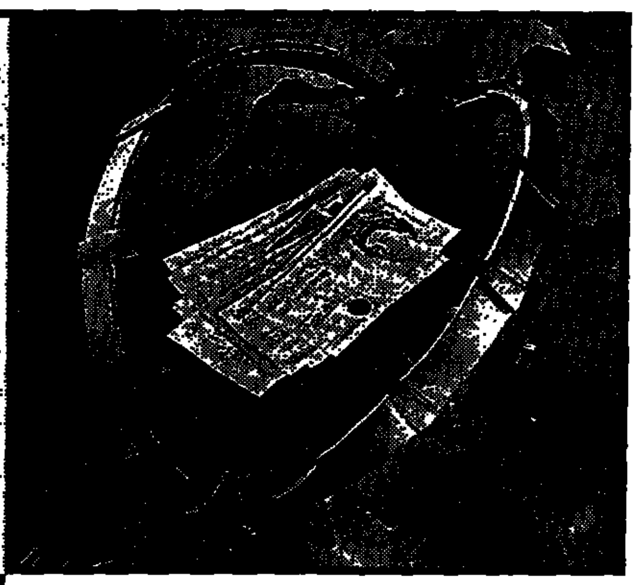
Yesterday Beijing's State Council released a 13,000-word report outlining the country's progress on human rights. Divided into seven parts, it includes democratic rights, judicial guarantees, women and children, minorities and workers.

It emphasises Beijing's familiar theme that China concentrates on food, clothing and shelter, and states: "Statistics show that China is the country which has witnessed the quickest decrease in its poverty-stricken population."

But it also says that China is improving its legal structure and healthcare and that "the severe crackdown on crime has safeguarded social stability and the human rights of the people all over the country and won the heartfelt support of the general public".

The crackdown, known as "strike hard," included the detention of a few remaining dissidents.





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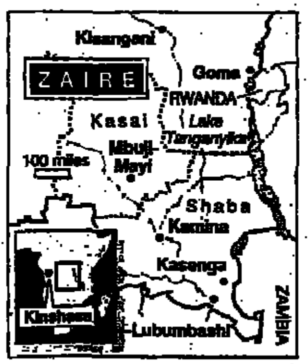
Zaire rebels reach diamond-rich heartland

By Sam Kiley
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT



ZAIRE'S rebels yesterday looked set to roll unopposed into the country's economic heartland after taking the centre of the rail system for the two richest provinces without a battle before peace talks, expected to start in South Africa this week.

Forces under the command of Laurent Kabila yesterday overran Kamina which controls rail access to Kasai, the diamond-rich province, and Shaba, its southern neighbour. Residents in both areas are waiting for the arrival of the rebels and have said that they will not put up a fight.

Groups of rebel fighters under Tutsi officers have been reported heading towards Shaba and Kasai by rail over the last few weeks, having captured the artery which runs east to Lake Tanganyika earlier this year. But the prospect of them alighting in Lubumbashi, capital of Shaba province, and in MbujiMayi, the centre of East Kasai's diamond industry, looked very close yesterday after the fall of Kamina, 400 miles northwest of the Shaba capital.

"The only thing that has been slowing down the rebel advance across Zaire has been geography. It's a very big country to walk across and there are very few roads," said a Western ambassador in Kinshasa yesterday.

"We expect them to turn up in Lubumbashi and Mbuji-Mayi perhaps by the weekend," he added.

The sudden strategic blow to the Government of President Mobutu came as both sides were preparing to meet for talks on a ceasefire in South Africa next week. With every town and city that falls both analysts and the rebels themselves have been asking what there is left to talk about.

Already the governors of Shaba and Kasai have openly stated that they are looking forward to the arrival of Mr Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for Liberation Congo-Zaire, because their administrative record in the third of the country already captured has been impressive.

In preparation the streets of Lubumbashi have been swept and whitewashed, for the first time in more than a decade. Locally based soldiers have been ordered to maintain strict discipline on pain of death and to put up no resistance when the rebels finally arrive, members of Mr Mobutu's own family said recently.

Three decades of dictatorial rule have left most Zaireans worse off than when they were under Belgian colonial domination, when failure to meet rubber quotas often meant the amputation of a hand.

Mr Kabila, 57, a Luba tribesman from northern Shaba province, is now seen by the majority of Zaireans as someone who can restore the rule of law after 31 years of "kleptocracy" under Mr Mobutu. So far he has captured verdant agricultural areas, but his moral mettle will be tested when his men jump off the trains in MbujiMayi and Lubumbashi. The fields around the former are pockmarket with diamond digs a few feet deep. In 1992 a $7 million gem was harvested by a peasant.

Lubumbashi, the industrial capital of Zaire, is rich in uranium and copper, but its main "cash crop" is cobalt. More valuable than gold, the metal is an essential ingredient for jet engines and is the subject of a large amount of smuggling. "The temptations are obvious," the Western ambassador said.

Rwandan refugees, most of them Hutus, arriving at a camp near Kisangani after fleeing from rebels who yesterday took a vital rail centre

☐ **Goma:** Some 30,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees, who have fled the troubled Zairean region of Masisi, were yesterday less than 30 miles west of Goma, a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees official said. Filippo Grandi added that the refugees had earlier fled two camps in northern Goma and were sheltering in Masisi where, according to the Government in Kigali, Rwandan Hutu extremists have launched a campaign of "ethnic cleansing" to create a "Hutuland" for Hutus who refuse to return to Rwanda. Yesterday the refugees agency opened a new camp near the northeast Zairean town of Kisangani to provide relief for some 20,000 refugees at large in the region since the town fell to rebels two weeks ago. *(AFP)*

St Helena seeks investors as British aid dwindles

Napoleon, depicted in exile on St Helena. Now the island's jobless also face despair

By Michael Binyon
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ST HELENA, one of Britain's poorest and most isolated remaining colonies, may sink into oblivion and despair unless more outside investment can be directed to the South Atlantic island best known as the final exile of Napoleon.

The Foreign Office has launched a series of conferences to win new business for the remote territory, where unemployment is over 18 per cent and three quarters of the population are employed by the colonial government.

St Helena, uninhabited on its discovery in 1502 and with a population now of 6,000 from mixed British and Indian descent, has virtually no natural resources, no airport and a massive annual budget deficit. Latest figures show that it imported goods worth £4,692,000, but its exports were only £145,000. Britain makes up the difference, with budgetary aid last year amounting to £3,680,000.

St Helena receives more than £8 million a year, the highest amount per head of British aid anywhere in the world. But British funds are dwindling. Aid was cut by 20 per cent between 1993 and 1994, and social distress and unrest are growing.

Sir Nicholas Bonsor, the Foreign Office Minister of State who opened the business forum last month, said Britain wanted to make the island self-sufficient and prosperous. The Government is trying to reduce the dependence on the public sector and develop a private sector. The aim is to encourage new jobs and investment.

Napoleon, who was exiled on the island, died there in 1821.

Gunman to die for school killings

Sanaa: A Yemeni gunman was sentenced to death by firing squad yesterday for killing a headmistress, a teacher and three children at two schools here on Sunday.

Muhammad Ahmad Misleh al-Nazari will be allowed to appeal today. Al-Nazari, who is charged with murdering five people, the attempted murder of 12 and resisting arrest, said he intended to kill the headmistress's husband. He said that the couple approved the kidnap and rape of his eight-year-old daughter. The court heard that tests showed she was still a virgin. *(Reuter)*

Laundered cash goes flying

Tokyo: A Japanese man is trying to recover 8 million yen (£38,650) which his two-year-old daughter threw off their balcony in Osaka, newspapers reported here. The man had withdrawn the money from the bank to buy a lorry for his construction business and his wife put it out to dry after it was accidentally included in the washing. *(AFP)*

Out of action

Ibiza: Abel Matutes, 55, the Spanish Foreign Minister, will need two months to recover from a mild heart attack he suffered over the weekend, doctors said. Señor Matutes was spending the Easter weekend on his native Ibiza. He has now left intensive care. *(AFP)*

Pig of a life

Taipei: A Taiwan Buddhist group says it plans to erect a shrine here and pray for good reincarnations for more than a million pigs that were destroyed during a recent widespread outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. *(Reuter)*

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I may never see my sons again

MARTIN BEDDALL

Heartbroken: "The bond between mother and child should never be broken," says Catherine Laylle

Catherine Laylle's sons were abducted by their father but the German courts still granted him custody. Interview by **Bill Frost**

Her bad dreams may be less frequent now but they are still as traumatic and exhausting as when they began more than two years ago: two frightened boys call continuously for their mother. She cries out in her sleep, powerless to help them in their fear and isolation.

But waking brings no relief for Catherine Laylle — reality is her worst nightmare. Her sons Alexander and Constantin may never call out for their mother again. They are neither frightened nor isolated but apparently content to live with the father who abducted them almost three years ago.

In 1984 Catherine Laylle, who is half-French and half-British, married Hans Peter Volkmann, a young German doctor. He was, she says, "dangerously needy" while she was hopelessly romantic.

Incompatibility was to divide the couple six years later, but they agreed that for the sake of their two young sons, the separation would be "amicable". Alexander, now 12, and Constantin, 10, would live with their mother in London — where the couple married — and spend holidays with their father in Lower Saxony.

But with hindsight, Ms Laylle, 43, realises that she failed to appreciate her husband's anger and bitterness over the breakdown of the marriage and dissolution of the family. While agreeing terms with the lawyers, he was in fact hatching a plot to abduct his sons.

Smoking constantly, she says: "I don't think I'll ever see them again. I must learn to dissociate myself from my emotions: you either take your own life or fight."

Ms Laylle remembers her astonishment and fury when in July 1994 Herr Volkmann, having failed to be granted *ex-parte* custody by a German court, disappeared with the boys four days before they were due to be returned to their mother.

"A British judge made the children wards of court the following month and under the terms of the Hague Convention — which both Britain and Germany have signed — ordered their return."

Herr Volkmann was given 30 minutes to say goodbye to his sons after a German court in his home town of Verden ruled that his action was unlawful. However, he bundled the boys into a waiting car and went on the run once more.

By the time Ms Laylle had tracked them down, he had appealed to a higher court in Celle. Three judges upheld Herr Volkmann's appeal — based on evidence from a German social worker and a psychiatrist — that Alexander and Constantin, "felt German" and had been branded "Nazis" by fellow pupils at the exclusive Knightsbridge prep school where they had been sent by their mother.

Before their abduction, Ms Laylle's relationship with her sons had been extraordinarily close. But the transformation she witnessed in the courtroom still haunts her. The children who once clung to her were hostile and confused.

"Alexander did not look at me and started to hit me with his arms and legs," she says. "I was flabbergasted, shocked, staggered ... What had they done to my children?

"I turned to Constantin, tears in my eyes. He turned his head to one side to avoid looking at me ... I ran out of the courtroom, sobbing.

"Who were these judges to ruin my life? After half-an-hour in a courtroom they have built a wall between a mother and her sons which will probably never be torn down.

"The only systems I know which take a child from a mother are totalitarian. The bond should never be broken. It is the strongest emotional tie of them all."

Ms Laylle believes her sons were "brainwashed... turned against me by their father and his parents in Germany".

With Alexander and Constantin

Certainly, photographs of the two boys and their mother which decorate her South Kensington flat appear to underline the closest of bonds.

"Alexander and Constantin have been programmed to believe I am the woman who abandoned them, the mother who never loved them. They are now little strangers who have been instructed to fear me."

As she pulled herself back from the brink of a nervous breakdown in 1995, Ms Laylle decided to fight for the children. But her faith in natural and European justice was to be destroyed.

Her lawyers told her the European Court would not be interested in the case. "Apparently, a custody order imposed by one member state and disputed by another does not concern them. I cannot understand the logic," she says.

"The High Court ordered that the boys be returned but the German judiciary just ignored the ruling. Aren't we all supposed to be part of the same European Union, acknowledging our common links and common humanity?

"A mother has seen her sons stolen and what have the authorities done? Where is the great British justice I believed in?"

Since the Celle ruling, Ms Laylle has access to her sons in Germany, but only under the supervision of social workers at her husband's family home in a remote corner of Lower Saxony. The visits proved so traumatic for all concerned that she has not seen the boys since last May.

Ms Laylle was "escorted" by a chauffeur from the British Consulate in Hamburg for what she says was to be her final visit. "Without him, I would have been frightened and intimidated by the presence of my husband's family."

However, the chauffeur could not protect her from the pain of her sons' rejection. "Alexander looked incredibly sad — drained of childhood. Constantin seemed not even to have noticed I was there. It seemed that they could not wait for the visit to be over.

"For all our sakes, I decided I could not go any more. It was so harrowing — their blank faces, a social worker eavesdropping on every word and my husband listening to us from a room next door."

Her regular telephone calls now go unanswered. Either there is no reply, or Ms Laylle's messages on the answer machine are ignored. She does not know if her sons are aware of her concern or are willing to drift further away from her.

Lighting another cigarette, Ms Laylle speaks sadly of how her parents — now both in their 80s — will never again see the grandsons they doted on. "I hope I can deal with my sadness, but for my father and mother this is so unutterably sad. They simply do not understand why the family has been so cruelly separated."

In desperation, she has thought of snatching the boys back but she has abandoned the idea because she feels sure that her sons would not be willing participants in any plot. "I fear they have been so programmed against me now that they would not come home to London with their mother," she says.

"I remain devoted to my sons. I could not start another family now — it would seem so disloyal to Alexander and Constantin, and yet the loneliness without them is sometimes almost unbearable."

Determined that something positive should be salvaged from the wreckage of her family life, Ms Laylle now campaigns tirelessly for a change in the Hague Convention to protect parents in similar circumstances.

"It may be too late for me, because all I can hope for now is that the boys might want to see me when they grow up and become curious about their mother. But there must be hope for all the others who may have children abducted in the future.

"Nothing will make me happy any more, but at least I have rediscovered my dignity and fighting spirit."

● *Catherine Laylle's story,* Two Children Behind a Wall, *was published last week by Arrow, £5.99.*

A priest accused of heresy

Tom Murphy on the Sri Lankan theologian who has been excommunicated by Rome

When the Pope tells you to go to hell, that is exactly what he means. To the astonishment of the Roman Catholic world, he has just excommunicated one of his priests, a Sri Lankan theologian, for heresy. Excommunication means that Father Tissa Balasuriya cannot share communion at Mass and, as a result, the salvation offered by Jesus.

The speed, severity and medieval nature of the penalty have caused a storm of protest from theologians, who fear the punishment is intended *pour encourager les autres.* It is a particularly cruel penalty for Father Balasuriya, a 72-year-old man who has devoted his life to the Church in a country where only 1 or 2 per cent are Christians. He can no longer say Mass, a daily routine of his ministry, and he will be seen by many Catholics as an outcast.

His heresy is contained in a book, which is likely to become something of a mini-bestseller, called *On Mary and Human Liberation.* Father Balasuriya takes an unorthodox, somewhat feminist, view of Mary, presenting her as a strong guide, inspiration and helpmate to a revolutionary Christ, in contrast to the Church's traditional portrayal of her as the self-sacrificing mother of God. His sin is to doubt publicly several Catholic dogmas.

Many theologians, despite disagreeing with Balasuriya's theology, fear that his case marks a new departure in a campaign being waged against dissidents.

The man they face in the Vatican is Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the German Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) or, as it was known in medieval times, the Inquisition. His critics argue that the name may have changed but the act has not; that he is, like his notorious 15th century predecessor Tomas de Torquemada, conducting a reign of terror. Ironically, the controversy comes at a time when Pope John Paul II has ordered an inquiry into the centuries-old sins of the Inquisition.

Cardinal Ratzinger, the Pope's loyal lieutenant, may eschew the thumbscrew, but Father Balasuriya accuses him of acting, like his medieval counterparts, as judge, prosecutor and jury.

The theologian complains that he has not had the chance to face his accusers and argue his views: that, in fact, there has been no inquisition.

Cardinal Ratzinger said last month that a "trial" would only prolong the agony and come to the same conclusion as his office and the Pope, who, he said, had taken a close personal interest in the case.

The fear Cardinal Ratzinger inspires is palpable. Some years ago I tried to interview a priest in Bangkok about his explorations of Buddhist meditation. His reaction — "Who told you about me?" — bordered on panic. "You don't realise, Ratzinger can destroy you." The cardinal had not long before published a paper criticising Christians who dabbled in Buddhism.

Paranoia? Dr Leonardo Boff, a former Dominican priest, who resigned from the order in 1992, has reason to think not. An exponent of liberation theology, he was "silenced", that is barred from teaching and writing, by the CDF. Now a university professor in Brazil, he has described the experience as like being caught by the security service of a South American military regime. "The Inquisition interrogates, hunts down and frames its suspects wherever they may be. It surrounds them with so many controls that it either ends up by psychologically destroying them or effectively condemning them."

In view of the Pope's continuing poor health, Cardinal Ratzinger, at the age of 70, and despite his professed wish to retire, may yet find himself as a stop-gap candidate wearing a white cassock and waving to the crowds in St Peter's Square after a puff of white smoke goes up.

'You don't realise – Ratzinger can destroy you'

The last priest to be excommunicated on grounds of heresy was the American Jesuit Leonard Feeney in 1953, who, in direct contrast to Father Balasuriya, believed that only Catholics will get to heaven. As Feeney lay on his deathbed in 1978, Pope Paul VI took pity and allowed him back in communion without requiring him to recant.

Father Balasuriya has just failed in an appeal against his penalty. He would be well advised not to hold his breath while waiting for mercy. The most famous victim of the Inquisition was Galileo, who in 1633 was put under house arrest until his death in 1642 for promoting the heretical view that the Earth went round the Sun and not vice-versa.

After due consideration, the Church formally conceded that he was right and apologised... in 1979.

● *The author is a former editor of the Catholic weekly,* The Universe.

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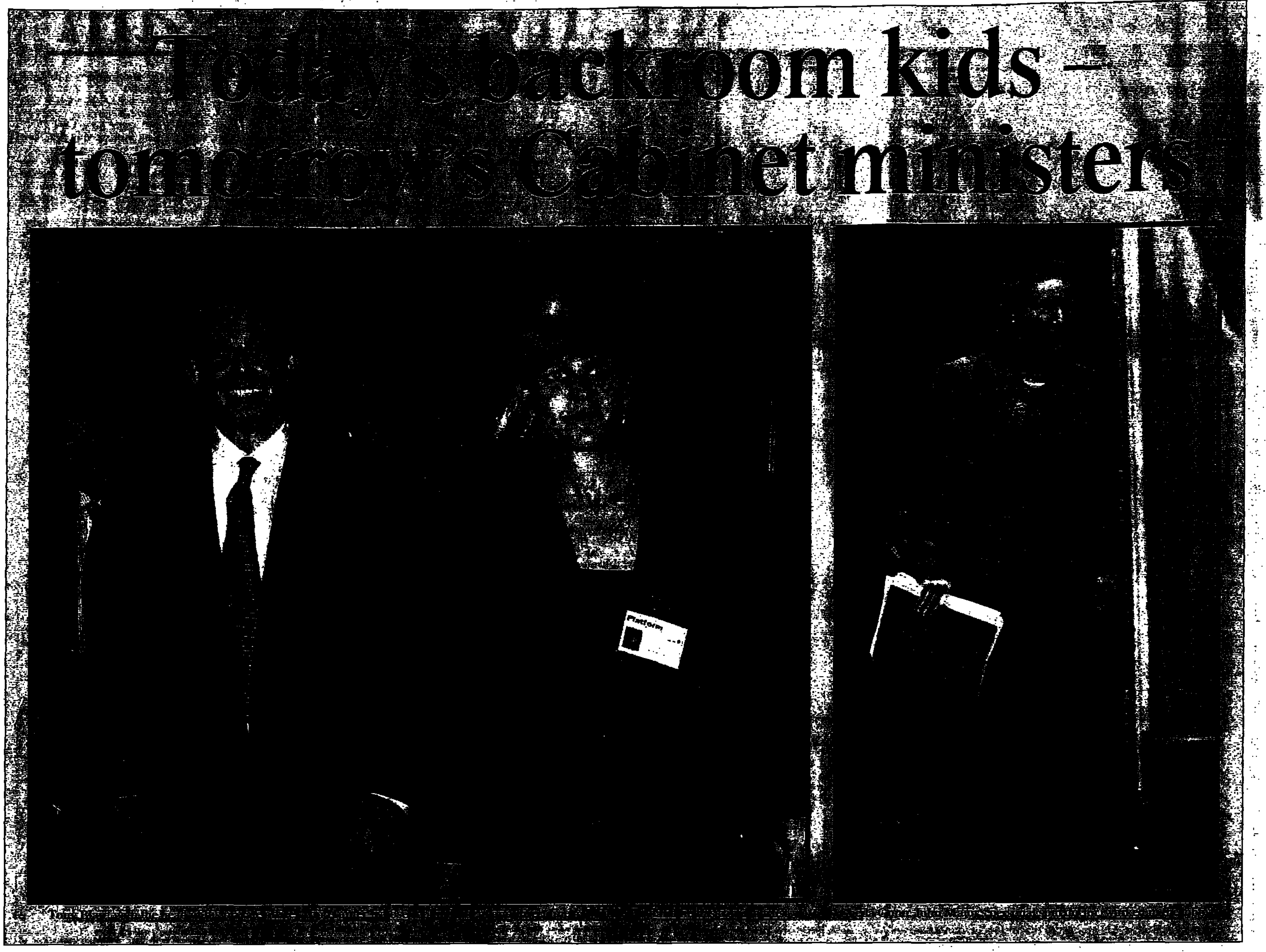
The political stars of the future are already telling ministers what to do. **Michael Gove**

Today's backroom kids — tomorrow's Cabinet ministers



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If there were ever any doubt, the events of the past week prove that politics in Britain is about as secure a career as pyramid selling in Albania or computer programming in southern California. Nevertheless, there is no shortage of young men and women who will spend the next month sacrificing sleep and sanity for the sake of their party. They are the spin doctors in short trousers, the political stars of tomorrow who are already telling ministers what to do. They range from a second-generation immigrant to a teetotal Jewish intellectual who ran student social democracy — and that's just the Tories.

Spin doctor is, like Häagen-Dazs, an ugly American name for a jazzed-up version of an old product. Since Seneca churned out speeches for his masters in ancient Rome, politicians have relied on a support staff to feed them lines and fashion their images. The new name derives from baseball, where coaches teach the pitchers how to add "spin" to a ball. These gurus, who believe that when bowling it's good to torque, became known as "spin doctors".

In due course, the policy coaches who add a "spin" or interpretation when politicians play hardball became known as "spin doctors". No sooner did the name become common currency than there were more star spinners around than at a Motown retrospective. Labour's media-manipulator, Peter Mandelson, and Margaret Thatcher's Svengali, Tim Bell, have become almost household names. Now there is a new generation, itching to slip into their tasselled loafers.

The baby spin doctors, who lurk just off camera when the soapbox is set up, have as much riding on this election as the people bidding for high office. A well-placed brief, snappy suggestion for a soundbite or tactically adroit spray of Silvikrin can save a frontbencher from disaster and set up the apprentice adviser for a gilded future. But although success can depend on a single intervention, a great deal is demanded.

Just before dawn, the young volunteers will be eagerly scanning the papers, straining to catch Jim Naughtie's voice on *Today* and preparing "lines to take", which come from cuttings, not Colombia. Both main parties have "war rooms", Labour's in Millbank Tower, the Tories' in Smith Square. From today, they operate 24 hours a day and the atmosphere combines the ops centre from *The Dambusters* with the dealing floor from *Wall Street*.

The politicians depend on an army of support staff to cope with the pressure of permanent electioneering. It is an army that spins on its stomach, with Labour's team enjoying access to a 24-hour privatised canteen. Alcohol is not available, but it isn't banned. "It doesn't need to be," comments one irritable staffer, "there isn't time to spin and swallow simultaneously."

The reward for the backroom boys and girls is, however, more than just a warm, ideological glow. Their predecessors have graduated to places in Parliament and the press. Politicians from Michael Portillo to Jack Straw cut their wisdom teeth as ministerial aides, as did journalists such as our own Matthew Parris and David Lipsey, the award-winning and anonymous *Economist* columnist.

The current generation of advisers includes several men and women already groomed, some perhaps *too* well-groomed, for stardom. New Labour is closer to *GQ* than the Tories, whose tweed and anorak style is more *Country Life* meets *PC World*.

Derek Draper is the archetypal new Labour adolescent apparatchik, from the soles of his Patrick Cox shoes to a mind schooled in intrigue as a Manchester student. Once an assistant to Mandelson, he is less apprentice and more a once-slender cutting grown to rival the original plant. He has taken a leave of absence from the political consultancy Prima Europe, managed by Roger Liddle, who wrote *The Blair Revolution* with Mandelson, to work in Millbank Tower.

His rival for recognition as the most talented new Labour spin doctor under 30 — a title even more hotly contested than the Premiership — is Tony Blair's personal press officer, Tim Allan. A cropped haircut and clipped telephone manner can convey a hint of menace, but Allan is not naturally domineering in the mould of Mandelson or Alastair Campbell, Blair's press secretary. Nor is he a long-time intimate of the leader like the tight-lipped office Medusa Anji Hunter, head of Blair's private office. But Allan has won the respect of journalists for the always unadorned, and always unattributable, way he reflects his master's voice. What unites Allan and Draper is a genuine understanding of what new Labour means. Having grown up with the collapse of Marxism and a loss of faith in the collective, they have learnt to imagine how progressive ideals might be secured using the grimy tools of the market. Many may pay lip-service to the Blair reforms as the price of power but Allan, Draper and many of their contemporaries are true believers.

There are older figures within Labour's support team, who may not be true believers, but who realise that progress depends on power and power depends on Blair remaining in control. Typical of those who provide internal steel are the election campaign co-ordinator, Margaret McDonagh, and the director of organisation, David Gardner, who was head-hunted by Blair from the Public Policy Unit.

McDonagh and Gardner are, according to one Labour staffer, "The people who will win us the election after next". Their hands have been behind the recent "retirements" of MPs and the installation of talented loyalists as well as NEC reforms, which should ensure less internal turbulence for a Blair government.

The ability to end little local difficulties with a diktat from the centre is just what the Tories need. But even though they have as much control over their wayward fringe as Jarvis Cocker, the Tories do boast talent at the centre.

Their most prominent backroom briefer is Major's own spin matron, Sheila Gunn, but the main Tory spin doctor is Charles Lewington. Although Lewington has a whiff of sulphur about him, it is probably due to nothing more than the cigars he smokes. He is, however, closely associated with Steve Hilton, the Saatchi adman who dreamt up the "demon eyes" poster. Hilton, the shaven-headed son of immigrant Hungarians who worked in Central Office in 1992, is now the lynchpin of the M & C Saatchi advertising campaign. Working with the account manager Marcus Peffers, Hilton is a home-grown James Carville, all energy and aggression to Peffers's smooth

KEY PLAYERS — PEOPLE ON THE RISE

STEVE HILTON

Tory linkman with ad agency M & C Saatchi, age 27

Is he as mean as he looks?

Meaner than a two-bit dog. Although he can be as charming as Bob Hoskins in a BT ad, he treats Labour's attempts to trespass on Tory ground like Hoskins treated bad boys in *The Long Good Friday*.

So an Essex man in miniature?

More Sussex boy in braces. Scholarship boy at Christ's Hospital public school and New College, Oxford, he graduated to adland after thinking up slogans at Central Office, transforming a dull line on Kinnock's opposition to Tory Training and Enterprise Councils into "No TECs please, we're Labour."

DANNY FINKELSTEIN

Tory Party director of research, age 24

Is he as brainy as he looks?

Brainier. A politics nut with an intellect larger than Norfolk and twice as fertile, his views are centre right but his style is Wilf Lunn on E.

Wired kind of guy, then?

Not in *that* sense. He's a teetotal non-smoker, and his Coke addiction is restricted to cans of Diet straight from the fridge.

So no traditionalist?

No. Although this refugee from the SDP is a born-again Eurosceptic and flagwaver, he is, with his graphs, market models and Fifth Avenue salesmanship, the very model of a Tory moderniser.

TIM ALLAN

Tony Blair's personal press officer, age 26

Seems like a nice boy.

Don't you believe it. Bawls out bolshie hacks who don't take the leadership line with: "I've never seen such sloppy copy. How could you write such distorted drivel?"

Sounds like scary spice?

Well . . . wizened correspondents have learnt to take such magisterial putdowns from a 26-year-old with a pinch of salt, but few deny he knows his master's mind.

A sure bet for the 2020 Labour Cabinet?

Unlikely. The former *A Week in Politics* researcher wants to make it in New York, not new Labour, and harbours ambitions of making a corporate fortune Stateside.

DAVID MILLIBAND

Head of Blair's policy team, age 30

Not another bleeding Einstein?

Einstein did not have David's intellectual range. From fiscal policy minutiae to adopting the cultural tropes of the football terrace, Milliband's your man.

Anything he cannot do?

Crack convincing jokes about Tony. He's a true believer, although being the son of a Marxist freethinker and himself practically a college Commie, he is *plus Blair-ite que Blair.*

Bet he comes a cropper. . .

No evidence of it yet. Even enemies — there aren't many — want him in the Commons to boost the pool of talent; others fear Tony can't afford to let him go.

JANE BONHAM CARTER

Liberal Democrat communications chief, age 34

Any relation to Helena?

From the same great Liberal dynasty as the porcelain-skinned starlet and the Edwardian Prime Minister H. H. Asquith.

So more at home at a cocktail party than a political party?

Not at all. As a former producer on *Newsnight* and the editor of *A Week in Politics* who once stepped out with rough-diamond Scottish MP Charles Kennedy, she is as streetwise in SW1 as she is in demand for dinner in W11.

Will that be enough to maintain Paddy's profile?

If anyone can turn the Lib Dems from also-rans into a yellow peril for other parties, it will be her.

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on the baby spin doctors, the infant admen and apprentice advisers in short pants

Charles Lewington, the main spin doctor for the Conservatives

Tim Allan, Tony Blair's personal press officer who has won the respect of journalists

Jane Bonham Carter is spinning for the Liberal Democrats

efficiency. Hilton's boss, Maurice Saatchi, has told friends "no one reminds me as much of me when young as Steve"; Hilton is believed to be already planning his own business after the election.

A little older, although scarcely less energetic, is the Tory Director of Research, Danny Finkelstein. A student social democrat and (Diet) Coke fiend he is credited with providing the Tories with what coherence their campaign possesses. He recognised it was impossible to say Labour had not changed but was astute enough to recognise the threats to Tory values new Labour might pose.

Finkelstein and Hilton are both on the rising Right of their party. Believing that personal independence and national independence can create a nation at ease with itself, they mix easily with unstuffy contemporaries. Finkelstein's deputy Andrew Cooper, Major's deputy political secretary and bus-boy George Bridges, the man who will gut the papers for him each morning, George Osborne, are all twentysomethings who can hold their Belgian beer at a drinks party as easily as they hold their own with a nervous minister minutes before *Election Call*.

Other parties boast their own baby aides but it is in the big two that the little ones have their best chances of advancement. The Lib Dems' most talented youngsters are fighting as candidates, leaving the spinning to the just-in-her thirties Jane Bonham Carter.

At the end of the election, some of the hopefuls may have little more to show for their efforts than a tear-stained leader's letter of thanks — but others will have spun their way into more profitable futures.

LIMELIGHT... AND SHADOW

There are some backroom boys who can't wait to elbow their way to attention, while others prefer to remain, in Clare Short's words, "the people who live in the Dark".

SHEILA GUNN

Major's personal spin doctor, age 48

Hardly a baby spin doctor? Manners! Although past her twenties Sheila is new to spinning, having spent several years in the lobby before crossing over.

So, she's wise to the hack's tricks? Yes and no. Although she knows how to sell stories, she's so addicted to the inside dope that she can't help letting secrets slip.

Does that annoy her bosses? Not at all. Sheila is adored by the PM and whenever the camera strays to the soapbox, it's Sheila's rapt face you'll see gazing up.

DEREK DRAPER

Consultant, Prima Europe, age 27

An outsider clambering aboard the Blair bandwagon? Helped Mandelson to get between hard covers, and brains behind *Progress*.

A dedicated political soldier? Few doubt his dedication but, despite the mod crop, Degsy is a midnight runner. A late night cocktail-sipper, he is a Sea Breeze socialist.

Party animal! Up to a point. Although fond of intrigue, social or political, he hopes to become a Labour Hezza, presiding over a publishing empire.

GEORGE OSBORNE

Briefs Major every morning, age 25

You mean he puts the Y-fronts on? No, he guts the papers and lets the Prime Minister know what's running in the press and what response is required.

So he's just a pot-and-paste man? Not quite — the job requires tact. Michael Portillo did the same job for Maggie in 1979 and never looked back.

Can the youngster stand serving up bad news every morning? George has been Douglas Hogg's adviser for the past two years. After that, this'll be a picnic.

ANJI HUNTER

Head of Blair's private office, age 43

Another Islington luvvie? Hardly. Anji was briskly educated at a Jean Brodie-style school in rural Scotland and now lives well away from the Smoke — she has mud on her boots.

And blood on her fingernails? Well, now you mention it, she *is* tough.

Hard then, but presumably not deep? Anji is no intellectual but Blair has come to trust her cool judgment and direct line to Middle England — she is uniquely valuable, having friends who read the *Daily Mail* for pleasure.

TOMORROW

Part Two Michael Gove on the glamour girls and boys

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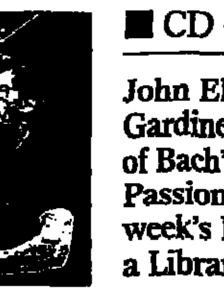
■ VISUAL ART 1

Brussels pays *tribute* to the late Paul Delvaux with a massive retrospective of his surrealist paintings

■ VISUAL ART 2

In a new London *show of his* sculpture and graphics, Randy Klein proves that art can also be fun

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ CD CHOICE

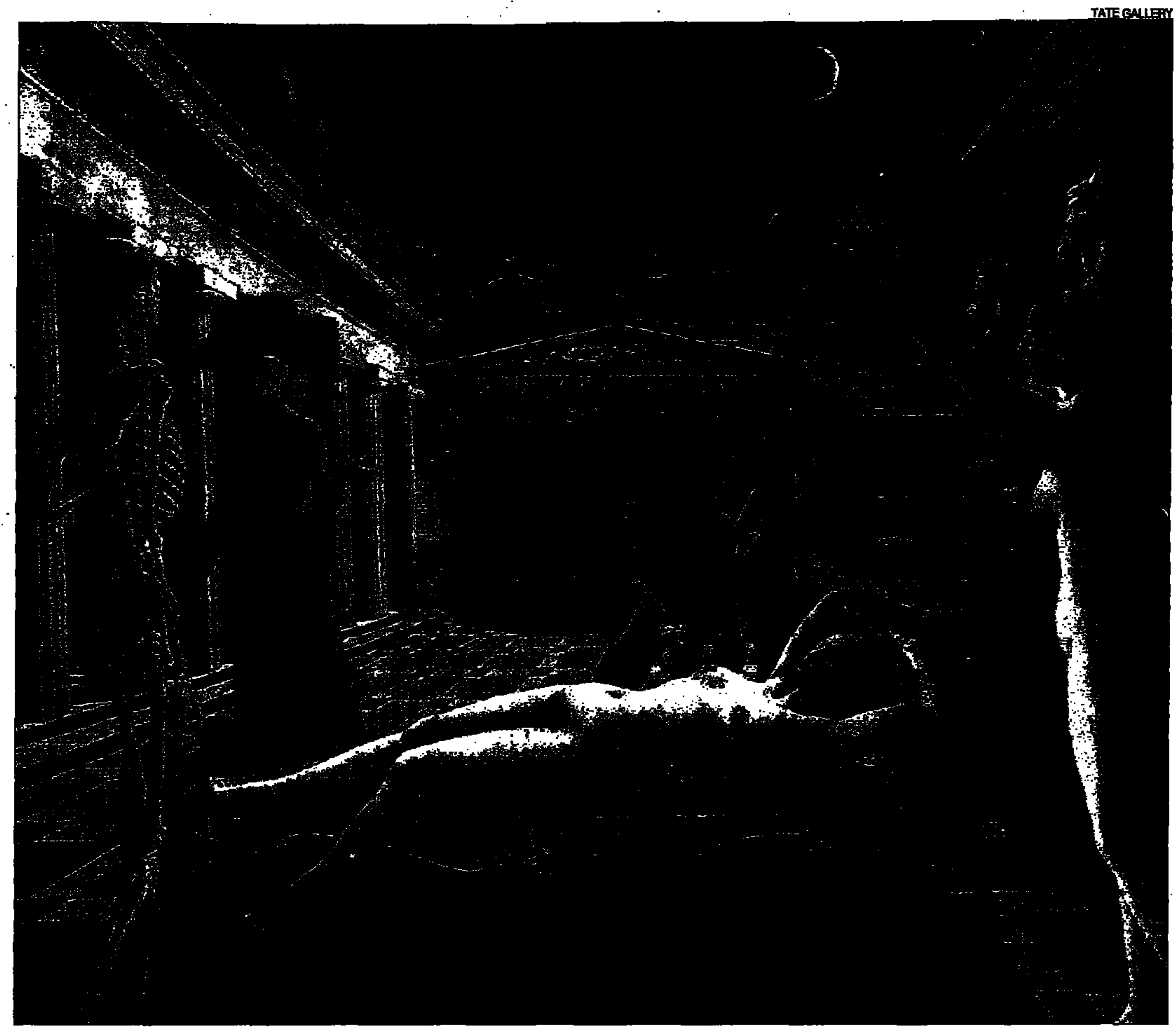
John Eliot Gardiner's recording of Bach's St John Passion is this week's Building a Library choice

■ TOMORROW

Woody Harrelson reveals what it's like to play the most infamous pornographer in America

Death and the maidens

Richard Cork goes to Brussels for a retrospective of the grotesque world of Paul Delvaux



TATE GALLERY

Chamber of fears: Sleeping Venus, 1944, by Paul Delvaux demonstrates the artist's lifelong preoccupation with death and the female form

Around 1930, Paul Delvaux made the unsettling discovery that would transform his art for ever. On a visit *to the Midi Fair in Brussels, he* came upon a gruesome shed labelled "Dr Spitzner's Large Museum". In this hushed and macabre cabinet of curiosities, purportedly on display "for the education of the public", Delvaux was confronted by an array of anatomical abnormalities. Congenital deformities and the distressing results of syphilitic illness were exposed in windows and showcases. Skeletons loomed, and so did a mechanised wax figure of a Venus sleeping against a red velvet backdrop.

Delvaux was spellbound. Lingering by the entrance, where the cashier seemed almost as much of a mannequin as the artificial figures elsewhere, he was particularly fascinated by a 19th-century painting of Dr Charcot conducting a clinical lesson with a woman in a trance. Whether or not he realised it then, Delvaux had hit on his central obsession as an artist. For the rest of his long career, he would return time and again to the sleeping Venus. And all the other women who throng his canvases seem to be held in a trance as dream-like as the one imprisoning Dr Charcot's patient.

Now, *three years after his* death, Delvaux's prolific and relentless output is surveyed in a colossal retrospective at the Royal Museums of Fine Art of Belgium. In the heart of the city where he made that momentous fairground discovery, his art is being celebrated as the work of a homegrown modern master, second only to Magritte in national popularity. But the opening rooms reveal just how uncertain the young Delvaux felt about his identity as a painter.

To judge by a 1905 photograph taken in the Bois de la Cambre in Brussels, he had a comfortable bourgeois childhood. His mother and nanny stand behind him, guarding the elaborate pram containing his baby brother. But Delvaux himself, whose father was a barrister at the Brussels Court of Appeal, stares at the camera with a solemn, introspective air. And the correctly dressed women rearing above him *take on the stiffness of the* female figures dominating so many of his later canvases.

Precisely how Delvaux's imagination was formed at this period can only be guessed at. But we do know that the seven-year-old child was fascinated by the human skeletons in his school's biology laboratory. Jules Verne's *A Journey to the Centre of the Earth* captivated him three years later, and during his adolescence Homer's *Odyssey* prompted him to draw mythological scenes in his school notebooks.

All these diverse stimuli would eventually nourish his work. For the moment, though, he excluded them from the paintings produced in the 1920s. These unexceptional canvases, ranging from a sunlit forest scene to damp urban views where huddled working figures hint at his social conscience, are openly derivative of Impressionism and early Van Gogh. Their lack of individuality is striking in view of Delvaux's later single-mindedness. Only a steam-filled railway station and a melancholy view of the Rue des Sols hint at the images to come.

By the middle of the decade, more fanciful ideas enlivened his dour, dogged vision. A sickly-sweet *Family Portrait* looks oddly feverish, and the visionary strangeness of *Sailboats at Sea*, likewise painted in 1925, suggests that Delvaux was already suspecting that his true bent lay in exploring fantastical images.

But he could not, as yet, define a style of his own. The influence of the Flemish Expressionists and the Walloon group Nervia meant that his large figure compositions of the late 1920s lacked rigour. The young girls in the forest look nakedly simpering, while their occasional encounters with men are merely coy. Delvaux's handling does not possess the exactitude he insisted on later.

Only in 1932 do we sense the emergence of a more urgent, focused priority. *Sleeping Venus I* may *still look scrappy and* unresolved, but the subject prophesies Delvaux's future direction with a new assurance. The reclining nude, clearly indebted to her wax counterpart in the Spitzner Museum, lies on a makeshift, red-striped mattress. Her languorous pose, so indebted to a long line of European Venuses from Giorgione to Ingres, makes her seem oblivious of the people ranged above. The cashier and clownish musicians beyond confirm that Delvaux is here drawing on memories of his momentous encounter at the Midi Fair.

Contact with the Belgian Surrealists proved decisive at this stage. Resistant at first, Delvaux soon succumbed to the mysterious, tantalising aura of Magritte's work. His influence, above all else, surely accounts for the sudden stylistic leap in the exhibition. The uncouth handling of *Sleeping Venus I* is put aside, and we are confronted by the stripped, austere certainty of *The Fire*, painted in 1935. It shows a woman in a dark dress staring from a balcony towards a blazing house and could easily be illustrating the climactic scene in *Jane Eyre*.

If Delvaux had shown the woman's face, it would probably not have revealed anything other than a deadpan, wide-eyed vigilance. That, after all, is the overriding expression of the female figures who now begin to stand, walk and recline in his paintings. Magritte continues to exert a *substantial influence, but the* deserted classical piazzas favoured by de Chirico must have helped to shape many of these images. As the 1930s proceed, however, his own peculiar preoccupations assert themselves as well.

> ❛ Delvaux equates women with a hunger for death ❜

Whether wearing fetishistic pink bows or frolicking like mermaids in a grey, northern sea, enigmatic women give his work a personal stamp at last. In moments of metamorphosis, their long tresses turn into cascading ivy. Sometimes bowler-hatted men, who appear to have strayed from Magritte's work, stride past these richly foliated goddesses. But the male gaze is averted, and the suspicion grows that Delvaux sees these women as figures to be avoided.

In a 1943 canvas called *The Spitzner Museum*, he finally *equates them with a hunger* for death. A bare-breasted figure advances in a state of ecstasy towards a waiting skeleton, whose hands appear ready to clasp her. Between them, a naked youth hovers as if unable to move.

The longer these paintings are scrutinised, the more Delvaux seems to be motivated by a morbid fear of women. These unapproachable figures, posed in classical cityscapes, seem to be waiting for the grave. In order to ram home his growing awareness of mortality, Delvaux embarked on an elaborate se*quence of paintings inhabited* solely by skeletons in the mid-1940s. The skeletons conduct conversations in an office, lie on a chaise longue or bend down to clasp a shell lying on a temple floor.

Seen in quantities, their symbolism quickly grows tiresome. But when Delvaux relegated the skeleton to the side of a monumental canvas called *Sleeping Venus* in 1944, the outcome was more impressive. The centre of the composition is taken up with the most seductive of his deities. Recumbent on an antique couch and illuminated by the moon, she is unaware of the gesticulating women around her. The silent architecture of a Roman city encloses their protesting figures, impassive*ly. And the solitary clothed* woman seems to acknowledge the presence of the skeleton, who advances towards Venus's defenceless, even expectant body.

Delvaux never painted better than in 1944, and everything in the subsequent sections of the Brussels show is an anti-climax. Apart from a monotonous partiality for trains, he never strayed from his favoured formula. Having defined his frozen and melancholy world with the help of Dr Spitzner's house of horrors, he trapped himself inside it and never broke free.

● *Paul Delvaux is at the Royal Museums of Fine Art in Brussels until July 27 (closed Mondays)*

AROUND THE GALLERIES

ABOUT ten years ago, Francis Kyle had a considerable success by pointing his regular artists in the direction of the Ridgeway, said to be "Europe's oldest road". Now he has done the same with the Saxon shore of Kent and East Anglia: 14 painters from Britain and America were encouraged to respond, each in his or her own way, to this very distinctive region of England. The result, as might be expected, is richly diverse, but at the same time unified by the large skies and extraordinary light of the area. The points of view vary from **Julian Hall**'s apparent orbiting far above Pevensey Bay to **Barry Kirk's** minute close-ups of flotsam and low-growing coast plants. **Alan Kingsbury** is unique among the artists in his primary concern with people, though always people related intimately to their local context. Pure landscape ranges from **Jonathan Briggs**'s almost photographically realistic coastal views to **Gerry Keon**'s exquisite abstractions of mud and sand at sunset. **Hugh Buchanan**'s intricately layered collage-paintings apply his obsession with history to such unlikely subjects as Sizewell and Dungeness.
Francis Kyle Gallery, 9 Maddox Street, W1 (0171-499 6870), Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 11am-5pm, until April 10

☐ LOOKING at a lot of the art on display in London today, one begins to feel that "charm" is the dirtiest word one could possibly apply to a painting. The best corrective might well be the Crane Kalman Gallery's **Mary Newcomb** retrospective. Newcomb is 75 this year, self-taught and a country-dweller. She has painted mainly what she has seen around her: animals, plants, ordinary people on the farm or at the seaside. Her work is delicately coloured, and often touched by a delightfully pawky, unsentimental humour. She could be dismissed as naive, but if so it is the naivety of genuine innocence. The associations that spring to mind are the chic and stylish simplicity of St Ives in the 1930s.
Crane Kalman Gallery, 178 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-584 7566), Mon-Fri 10am-6pm (Sat 4pm), until April 19

☐ IF ART can be charming without forfeiting its claims to seriousness, there is certainly no reason why it should not also be fun. That, at least, is the view of **Randy Klein**, a disconcertingly serious, disarmingly jolly artist of American origin now working between Britain and Italy. His show of sculpture and graphics at the Accademia Italiana and European Academy is arranged almost like a ride in Disneyland, moving us from Dante through Ovid and classical myth reinterpreted in modern terms, and on to the concrete jungle of today's cities and into closeup on a day in the supermarket, which can be regarded as either Inferno or Paradiso. The same forms recur, but the invention is so ebullient that everyone will notice and no one will care.
European Academy & Accademia Italiana, 8 Grosvenor Place, SW1 (0171-235 0303), Tues-Sun 10am-5.30pm, until Friday; £3, concs £1

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

BBC RADIO 3 BUILDING A LIBRARY

BACH'S ST JOHN PASSION
Reviewed by George Pratt

HEARING a Passion in Bach's own time, an elderly noble widow exclaimed: "God save us, my children! It's just as if we were at a comic opera." The Passion is indeed operatic — a cast of characters including the chorus as a raging mob, arias to reflect on the action, the action described in the Evangelist's recitative.

Rogers Covey-Crump with Parrott (VCD 545096-2) sings eloquently, while David Thomas is an aptly human Jesus. Other strongly expressive Evangelists include Ian Honeyman with Dombrecht (new this month from Vanguard Classics) and Ian Partridge with Christophers (CHAN 0507/8), excellent if you prefer arm's-length drama, the sound rather distant. Cleobury with the Choir of King's College, Cambridge (Columns Classics) moderates a glorious acoustic with close soloists and distant choir — a conductor's perspective. Decca preserves an early recording, Britten, with Pears as Evangelist and Wandsworth School Boys' Choir — the only performance in English.

The crowd choruses range from the vast and turgid (Karl Forster in 1962) to a mere eight crisp voices — the Scholars Baroque Ensemble on budget Naxos. Most virtuosic are Koopman's Nederlandse Bachvereniging, while Gardiner integrates the Monteverdi Choir into the narrative with breathtaking effect. In chorales, both of these only stretch the pulse at phrase-endings, to create breathing-spaces. Bach was supremely sensitive to colour: no two arias are scored alike, a strong argument for period instruments — and against Rilling (Hänssler). He, though, provides a third CD with spoken commentary in charmingly accented English.

Koopman (Erato 4509 94675-2) is irresponsibly artful, ready to take a risk. But for the library, implying repeated listenings, I return to Gardiner (Archiv 419 324-2 £29.99). His forces are virtually faultless.

● *To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498: e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk*
● *Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Verdi's* Aida

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■ POP

In Dublin, the Manic Street Preachers prove they are fighting fit as they launch an extensive tour

■ CHOICE 1

A new staging for an award-winning *radio play by* Anthony Minghella

VENUE: From tonight at the Man in the Moon, SW3

THE TIMES ARTS

■ CHOICE 2

A West End run for Oscar Wilde's *Lady Windermere's Fan* in the Haymarket

VENUE: Opens tonight at the Theatre Royal

■ CHOICE 3

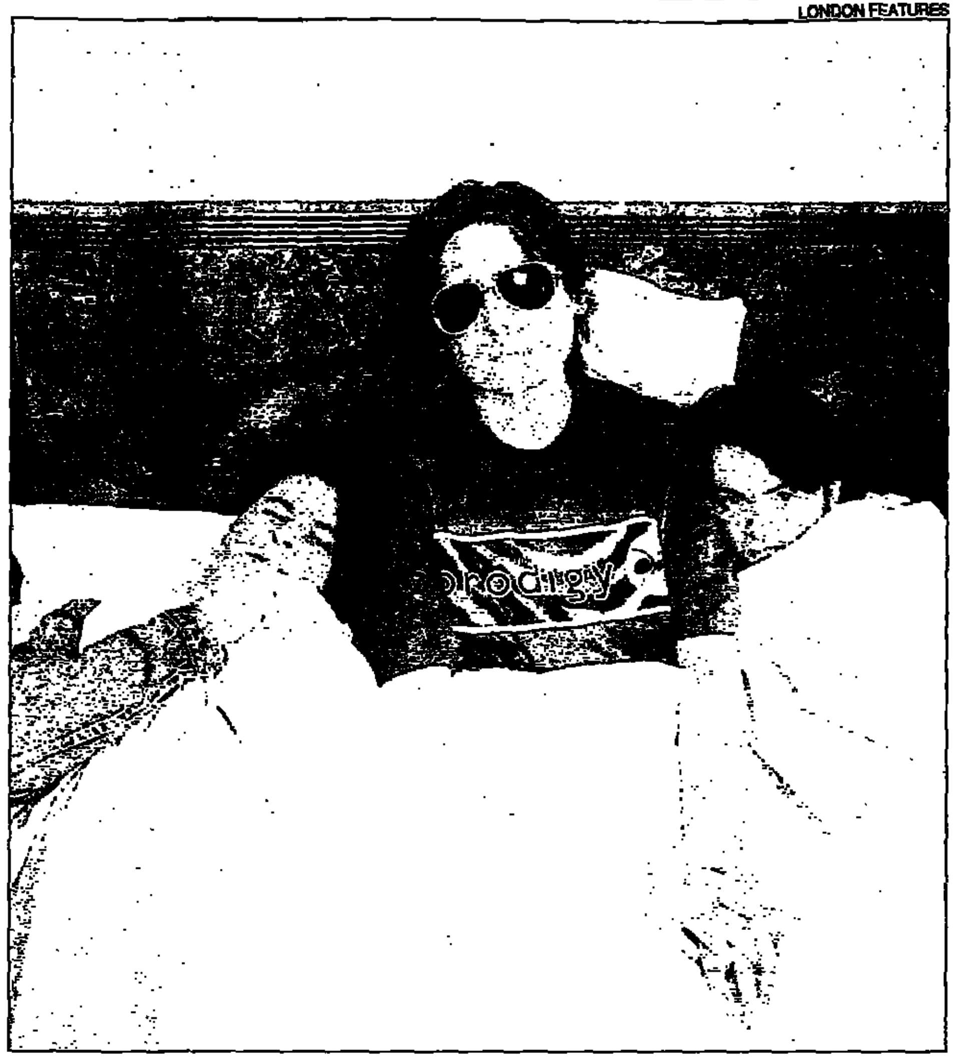
John Godber's latest comedy, *Shakers Restirred*, hits Cheltenham

VENUE: Tonight at The Other Space, Everyman

Three's the best company

POP

Manic Street Preachers
Olympia, Dublin



A case of less is more: in bed with the Manic Street Preachers, minus Richey Edwards

What doesn't kill you makes you stronger, as Nietzsche observed. No rock band proves this point more strikingly than the Manic Street Preachers. The disappearance of Richey Edwards — guitarist, lyricist and a core artistic director of the band — and the often garish media publicity which followed in its wake must have tested the resolve of the remaining members to the limit.

But while lesser mortals would have thrown in the towel and gone back to their day jobs, Messrs Bradfield, Moore and Wire, after a strategic retreat, came out fighting with their best album to date. *Everything Must Go* is the masterpiece they had threatened to make ever since their inception, an extraordinarily powerful amalgam of plangent, melodic guitars, skyscraping strings and pithy meditations on such things as society, art and existentialism. Even the tour merchandise in the Olympia foyer quotes Sartre.

A year after its release, the album is still riding high in the charts, having secured a clutch of industry awards, from the Brits to the Brats. The lap of honour that is their extensive Irish and UK tour began in this plush Dublin theatre last Saturday night and if they weren't consistently running at full pace, they nevertheless were rarely put off their stride.

An instrumental version of the anthemic *A Design for Life* on backing tape was the curious choice of intro, and from there it was straight into *Australia*. The high-voltage power surge of *Faster* and *Kevin Carter* followed soon afterwards, but their cover of *Suicide is Painless* — a song they recorded years before Richey went AWOL — seemed to blow a fuse, with the audience clearly unsure about the degree of significance that should be attached to its performance.

Motown Junk was less ambiguous, a distortion-driven pastiche of the Supremes' *Where Did Our Love Go?* seguing into the Manics' proto-punk missive.

Visually the band are as eye-catching as a safety pin through the nose. Singer James Dean Bradfield swings wildly around the stage on one leg, somehow managing to extract note-perfect those great riffs from his guitar in the process.

Meanwhile, bassist Nicky Wire, resplendent in a trainspotters' raincoat and exotic shades, nonchalantly gets down on his knees with the air of someone who finds the task of having to stand up and play an instrument too much of a struggle. He's a star for sure.

There is a brief acoustic interlude by Bradfield but the show ends with the band (which includes a keyboard player) in full swing, not bothering to observe the protocol of the encore but instead whisking uninterrupted through *Everything Must Go*, *A Design for Life* and *You Love Us*.

After that, who could ask for anything more?

NICK KELLY

CONCERTS: The Gabrieli Consort makes a slow start but a strong finish; the Virgin in song

Controlling Passion

St Matthew Passion
Barbican

THE St Matthew Passion by the Gabrieli Consort and Players on Easter Sunday was disadvantaged by the unsympathetic secular ambience of the Barbican. Characterised by swift tempos and light forces (nine singers in each chorus), it was not until Part Two that the full expressive range of the work began to register.

There could be no complaints about the orchestral playing. Recalcitrant period instruments such as the *oboe da caccia* (Katharina Spreckelsen and Alexandra Bellamy) were played with consummate skill, while Jonathan Manson's exquisite gamba solo in *Komm, süsses Kreuz* transfixed audience and participants alike.

The Gabrieli Consort's singing was also exemplary, but with Charles Pott and Julian Clarkson in cameo roles, you would expect it to be.

What was less convincing about Part One was not Paul McCreesh's fast tempos and lilting dance rhythms but the fact that they stifled emotional expression. The opening chorus was shorn of its plangency. *Buss und Reu* showed little sense of remorse, and few of the chromatic harmonies of *O Mensch, bewein* made any impact.

After the interval, however, there was a transformation. Robin Blaze fully exploited the expressive dissonances of the alto's *Ach, nun ist mein Jesus hin*, and Catherine Bott and Mark le Brocq also blossomed in the soprano and tenor solos. You might question the propriety of the Christus taking the bass solos but Peter Harvey as the supremely eloquent singer overcame such quibbles.

Mark Padmore could have found more drama in the role of the Evangelist, but like the performance as a whole, his reading was well thought through and superbly controlled.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Singing in tongues

New London Consort
Queen Elizabeth Hall

THE great 13th-century song collection, *Cantigas de Santa Maria*, is an expression of the Marian devotion that dominated so much of the daily and cultural life in the Middle Ages. The New London Consort programme titled *The Miracles of Mary* matched a selection of cantigas with settings from the *Miracles de Nostre-Dame* by the monk Gautier de Coincy (d 1233).

Seven centuries on, this music can still please the listener. The melodies are secular in origin and style, many of the songs being sacred contrafacta of existing tunes. But given that devotion to the Virgin plays such a small part in modern life, and given that nothing more than the texts and melodies of the songs survive (with much ambiguity as to the rhythmic interpretation of them), *how* should we listen to them?

The NLC presented carefully thought-out, highly polished interpretations, with a small chorus for the refrain and solo voices (here soprano Julia Gooding and bass Simon Grant) for the verses, accompanied by medieval fiddle, lute, gittern, recorder, symphony and percussion. The overall effect is rich and colourful. The "improvised" instrumental preludes, interludes and postludes were dispatched with technical flair and imagination: particularly compelling on this occasion were Tom Finucane's extended lute soliloquies.

It would be fascinating to know how the group and its director Philip Pickett reached their decision as to who plays what and when. There is no doubt that their colourful arrangements and lively rhythmic drive make for a compelling musical experience, but the linguistic barrier remains. If the rhymes of medieval Provençal or Galician-Portuguese can be appreciated, it is much harder to follow the meaning — even with translations.

TESS KNIGHTON

LONDON FEATURES

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

CIGARETTES AND CHOCOLATE An affair, a pregnancy, Bach and a bag lady feature in this stage version of the award-winning radio play by Anthony Minghella
Man in the Moon, 392 King's Road, SW3 (0171-351 2876). Previews tonight and tomorrow, 8pm. Opens Thursday

LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN Braham Murray's production of Wilde down from Manchester. Gabrielle Drake plays the woman with a past, Rebecca Johnson the virtuous wife without a mother
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Until May 31

TRAVELLING OPERA Peter Knapp's acclaimed company performs *La traviata* (tonight and Saturday) and *Don Giovanni* (Thursday and Friday). Tomorrow evening, Knapp presents **All** *You Ever Wanted to Know About Opera*, illustrating his narrative with arias and duets from the best-loved works
Richmond, The Green, Richmond (0181-940 0088). Tonight-Sat, 7.45pm. *Until April 5* ♿

ELSEWHERE

CHELTENHAM The dark secrets and murky pasts of four cocktail waitresses are revealed in ***Shakers Restirred***. The latest comedy from John Godber and Jane Thornton, the team responsible for *Bouncers* and, more recently, *Gym and Tonic*, is performed by an exciting new company, the Baggage Factory
The Other Space, Everyman, Regent Street (01242 572573). Tonight-Sat, 8pm ♿

LEEDS English Shakespeare Company presents a magical production of **A Midsummer Night's Dream.** Directed and designed by Phelim McDermott and Julian Crouch
Grand, 46 New Briggate (0113-0245 9351). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm (no perf tomorrow) ♿

OXFORD Welsh National Opera makes the first of two visits to the Apollo this season. Tickets are in demand for *Carmen* (tonight and Friday), *Rigoletto* (tomorrow and Saturday) and *Iphigenie en Tauride* (Thursday). The company returns on July 8 with *Simon Boccanegra*, *The Barber of Seville* and *From the House of the Dead*.
Apollo, George Street (01865 244544). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm

STIRLING Oxford Stage Company presents a tenth anniversary touring production of **My Mother Said I Never Should.** Charlotte Keatley's modern classic covers a period of 80 years, contrasting the lives of four women in the same family to reveal the secrets and myths handed down from one generation to the next. Directed by Dominic Cooke
MacRobert Arts Centre, University of Stirling ♿ (01786 461081). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm. Next in **Manchester**, Library (0161-236 7110), April 8-12. **Cheltenham**, Everyman (01242 572573), April 15-19

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum Ancient Faces: Mummy Portraits from Roman Egypt (0171-636 1555) **Christopher Hull** Zoe Benbow: Recent Paintings (0171-235 0500) **European Academy/ Accademia Italiana** José Maria (0171-235 0303). **London International Gallery of Children's Art**: A Festival of Seasons: Celebrating Greece Through Children's Eyes (0171-431 1200) **Pentagram** Tony Evans (0171-229 3477) **RIBA Heinz** Clough Williams-Ellis: Architect Errant (0171-580 5533) **Royal Over-Seas League** Jackie Philip (0171-408 0214) **Saatchi** Fiona Rae; Gary Hume (0171-624 8299) **V & A** The Cutting Edge: Fifty Years of British Fashion (0171-938 8349) **Whitechapel** Antechamber (0171-522 7888)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **AMERICAN BUFFALO**: Douglas Henshall, Neil Stuke and Nicholas Woodeson play the three small-time crooks in David Mamet's gripping drama. Great dialogue. Lindsay Posner directs
Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. *Until April 5*

☐ **ATTEMPTS ON HER LIFE**: Further structural changes at this theatre for Tim Albery's ambitious staging of a new Martin Crimp play: a mosaic of scenes building into a post-modernist portrait of a modern woman.
Royal Court Circle and Stage, Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Sat, 4pm. *Until April 5*

◪ **CARDIFF EAST**: Kenneth Cranham, Karl Johnson, Windsor Davies in the cast of 15 for Peter Gill's new play, set on a Welsh housing estate in the 1990s
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm; mat Wed, 2.30pm. In rep.

☐ **THE COMIC MYSTERIES** John Retallack's celebrated production of Dario Fo's *Mistero Buffo*. New Testament tales delivered in *commedia dell'arte* style
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Tue (April 15) and Sat, 2.30pm

☐ **THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHERETTES**: Forkbeard Fantasy's comic hit returns: crazy doings in a crumbling fleapit inhabited by three gruesome crones and their feeble brother. Enjoyably barmy stuff
Lyric Theatre Studio, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4.30pm

☐ **THE GENERAL FROM AMERICA**. James Laurenson and Corin Redgrave play Arnold and Washington, heading a fine cast in Richard Nelson's play concerned with treachery but only faintly suggesting motives
Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm, mat Thurs and Sat, 2pm. In rep. Until April 5

☐ ***THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES***: Peter Bowles both touching and comic as Molière's deluded hero. Eric Sykes excellent as his flicker-fingered servant. Peter Hall directs
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, and Sat, 5pm.

☐ **SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE**: Subtitled "The Songs of Leiber and Stoller." Hit Broadway compilation show celebrating a successful songwriting team, responsible for *Hound Dog*, *Jailhouse Rock* and *Spanish Harlem*.
Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5987). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm

☐ **SUMMER BEGINS** The Four Corners Season continues with David Eldridge's sharp comedy set in Barking, E13, at the end of the football season. Directed by Jonathan Lloyd, who directed Eldridge's excellent *Serving It Up* the Bush last year
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Until April 5

☐ **WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF HRT** Marie Jones and Eileen Pollock in love with Daniel O'Donnell. Hit Irish comedy but their daydreams are a bit obvious, somehow
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm

LONG RUNNERS

◪ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) ◪ **Cats**: New London (0171-405 0072) ◪ **Grease**: Cambridge (0171-494 5080) ☐ **An Inspector Calls**: Garrick (0171-494 5085) ☐ **Jesus Christ Superstar**: Lyceum (0171-656 1807) ☐ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) ◪ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ◪ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

BASQUIAT (15) Fascinating portrait of the black graffiti artist of the 1980s, portrayed by Jeffrey Wright.
Gate ♿ (0171-727 4043) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on the Hill** (0171-435 3366) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

◆ **DANTE'S PEAK** (12) Erupting volcano threatens Pierce Brosnan and Linda Hamilton. Silly script, good effects.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Empire** (0990 888990) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

DRIFTWOOD (18): James Spader and Anne Brochet marooned in a pretentious Irish drama. Director, Ronan O'Leary
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279)

◆ **LARGER THAN LIFE** (PG) Flat, whimsical comedy with Bill Murray and an elephant. Director, Howard Franklin
Odeon Mezzanine ♿ (0181-315 4215)

LOVE LESSONS (15): Teenage boy learns about love in wartime Sweden. Watchable drama from director Bo Widerberg
ABC Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470)

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN (U): Welcome revival of Lionel Jeffries's family classic of 1970, with Jenny Agutter and Bernard Cribbins
Barbican Cinema (0171-638 8891) **Curzon Phoenix** (0171-369 1721)

◆ **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S ROMEO + JULIET** (12): Effervescent contemporary treatment, with Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes as the star-crossed lovers. Director, Baz Luhrmann
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Barbican** ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** ♿ (0990 888990) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ **THE ENGLISH PATIENT** (15) Map-making Ralph Fiennes smoulders with passion for Kristin Scott Thomas. Epic, intelligent, though not quite worth all the praise. Director, Anthony Minghella
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Plaza** (0990 888 990) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **RIDICULE** (15) Patrice Leconte's witty and diverting costume piece set in Louis XVI's court, with Fanny Ardant
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279) **Minema** (0171-235 4225) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **SHINE** (12): Child prodigy pianist crumples under the strain. Uplifting, often funny treatment of a true story from Scott Hicks. With Geoffrey Rush
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) **Mezzanine** ♿ (0181-315 4215) **Plaza** ♿ (0990 888990) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ ***STAR WARS*** (U) The movie milestone returns, with four extra minutes. With Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, director, George Lucas
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

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In William Hogarth's tercentenary year, **Isabel Carlisle** asks how the art-form he pioneered is faring in modern Britain

Oh dear, where can the satire be?

In the imaginary national performance table of great artists down the centuries, we British have tended to rate ourselves below average, while the Italians (with the Renaissance) and the French (with Impressionism) are at the top. It is a table that is no less potent for being unwritten. It was already present in the consciousness of the early 18th century. It still floats at the back of our minds today and adds an element of disbelief to the news that young British artists are enjoying a huge success . . . abroad.

Hogarth took the view that something had to be done about Britain's artistic inferiority complex, and launched a counter-attack. As the Grand Tourists bought up Italian Old Masters to *decorate their country houses and* had their portraits painted by Italian artists, Hogarth took it upon himself to found a British school of art. His new style of painting rejected the classical mythology and landscapes of Italy, and borrowed the idea of low-life scenes from the Dutch. It took real people as its subject matter and real life as their setting.

As we know, he attacked the political corruption and social dissolution around him, and for his weapon he again rejected a foreign tradition, this time caricature (as practised by Leonardo da Vinci), and developed an entirely new language of visual satire. It has been admired and adapted by artists here and abroad ever since, *as three new London exhibitions* demonstrate.

Caricature is as ephemeral as the individuals whom it exaggerates in order to deflate. Satire, which addresses the broader picture of human types and human failings, endures. This is one reason for Hogarth's ability to communicate across the centuries. Among the many exhibitions celebrating the tercentenary of Hogarth's birth this year is "The Rake's Progress: from Hogarth to Hockney" at Sir John Soane's Museum (until August 31). The depictions of latterday rakes by artists inspired by Hogarth's series of eight paintings underline Hogarth's influence, yet none of them has the acerbity and pathos of the originals.

The violent anger that Hogarth felt, the mission to open the eyes of his contemporaries to the society in which he and they lived, is the *sine qua non* of the successful satirist. It surfaced in the reign of George III with Gillray, in Louis-Phillipe's France with Daumier, and again in Weimar Germany with George Grosz. An exhibition of Grosz's devastating visual critique of Berlin society and politics between the World Wars has just opened at the Royal Academy (until June 8).

Grosz was a great admirer of Hogarth. Prints by Hogarth, and Gillray, hung on the walls of Grosz's Berlin apartment (and then his home on Long Island after 1933, when he left Germany). However, *it took the First World War to* politicise Grosz. Shortly after his release from a military mental asylum in 1917, he started on a reprise of one of Hogarth's subjects. "I am," he wrote, "painting a large picture of Hell — a *Gin Lane* of grotesque corpses and lunatics; there's a lot going on — Old Nick himself is riding on the slanting coffin through the picture out towards the left; on the right a young man is throwing up, vomiting on the canvas all the beautiful illusions of youth . . . A teeming multitude of possessed human beasts."

Unlike Hogarth, Grosz was prosecuted for the content of his pictures. He aimed for an art that was "tough, brutal, transparent, an *art that hurts*". The portfolio of prints *Gott mit Uns*, attacking the military, was exhibited by Grosz at the First International Dada Fair and the lithographic plates were subsequently confiscated. Fifty-two images from the *Ecce Homo* series were also banned by the authorities on account of their sexual explicitness.

By way of contrast, a small exhibition of work by 13 of our contemporary satirists — at the Royal Academy until May 6 — shows them to be more comfortable with humorous observation than with devastating dissection. No wonder politicians buy originals to hang in their loos. In the best sequences, such as Ralph Steadman's *Politicians' Legs* or Peter Brookes's *Nature Notes*, one is struck by the concentration on individuals rather than types: they deliberately distance the observer from the subject. The genius of Hogarth's *Rake's Progress* or Grosz's *Ecce Homo* lay rather in presenting us with scenes in which we can imagine ourselves as the protagonist. It is the difference between caricature and satire.

Without Hogarth and Grosz, our idea of visual satire would be merely graphic illustration. These two artists took satire to new heights, and the fact that their chosen means of communication was art, and their aim was to educate through satire, meant that they addressed a huge combined audience of lovers of high art and devotees of prints (in Hogarth's time), pamphlets and journals (in Grosz's). Like most great art, theirs changed some lives, but not much else — certainly not the politics or morals of their societies. Its most profound impact may well have been on posterity. We cannot imagine Hanoverian London or Weimar Berlin without Hogarth and Grosz.

Spare the teacher, save the child

Vilifying teachers will not solve the problems in our schools

Libby Purves

A pamphlet from the Social Affairs Unit will today denounce teachers: this time for turning children into "thought police" who challenge the "perfectly law-abiding" activities of their parents on environmental grounds. This is not an April Fool. Early comments suggest that the pamphlet's authors genuinely object to children being permitted to question the domestic or social status quo. If they criticise the car, read tuna tins and go "Yuk!" at teak furniture, then this is portrayed as a Bad Thing. We don't want teachers putting ideas in kids' heads, do we?

Well, I do. I *want* my children to come out of school full of awkward questions. I want them to breathe a bracing, argumentative air from outside the stale bubble of family and neighbourhood. If I disagree, I *can always argue back.* Admittedly, there are a few solid ideals I should like them to perch on after their flights of controversy, *but there's not* much value in the coming back if they never learn to fly in the first place. Better a good rousing family argument about unleaded petrol than a dull-eyed child who never doubts that Daddy Knows Best.

But never mind the eco-battlefield; maybe I am naïve, and the Social Affairs Unit is right to fear an uncontrollable plague of stroppy little Swampys, tunnelling under all that L-reg drivers hold most dear. It is the wider educational *question that torments me,* and has done so for the past week of professional conferences and sweeping political promises from all sides to ban strikes, inaugurate sin-bins, sack teachers, ballot parents and issue Ofsted with death-ray guns.

This big question, too big for politics and by the sound of the speeches, far too big for the vindictive scruffbags at the NUT, is *what are teachers for?* Peter Smith, of the more dignified Association of Teachers and Lecturers, came closest to asking it last week when he daringly said that teachers should be more than "curriculum shelf-stackers in competing educational Spar groceries".

It was, as this newspaper noted yesterday, a conciliatory speech: otherwise Mr Smith might have added more similes. He could have said that teachers did not sign up to be stocktaking clerks, ticking off the measurable skills of their charges *in neat little boxes* to submit to number-crunchers at the Department for Education. Or that reception teachers are more than bank clerks, charged with counting and checking nursery vouchers for forgery by rubbing them (as recommended) between forefinger and thumb. He might even have ventured the dangerous theory that a headteacher has better things to do than forever rewriting the school's mission statement with newer buzz-words and flattering the vanity of client parents.

He could have remarked that testing is all very well, but you don't fatten a pig by weighing it. Or that "parent power" is a confidence trick *that causes nothing* but false hopes, bad temper and bureaucratic chaos. It can't work: firstly for the obvious reason that good schools do not have elastic walls, and secondly because most of us use schools for only a very short span of years, are passionately partisan about our own 2.4 children, and therefore make dangerous custodians of the welfare of other people's. Mr Major wants to let parents "trigger ballots to extend selection in their schools". For heaven't sake, why? So that a cabal of 1997 parents can pull up the ladder behind them? And why faff about with all *this stuff* anyway, *while the* central question is never asked? *What are schoolteachers for?*

Until we decide, we can neither judge nor recruit them properly. Are they policemen or warders, keeping the most disaffected and damaged children under control in groups larger than any policeman would expect to master? Are they sticking-plaster on the wounds of society, instilling moral virtue where everyone else has failed? If not, then let us hope that Labour's leaders really mean it when they promise to increase referral units for difficult pupils. (But it will cost them, which is why so many such units were closed in the first place.)

Neither should teachers be what Mr Smith called "shelf-stackers" for the National Curriculum. Admittedly, this new craze for uniformity was provoked by a dangerous drop in standards in some schools; but the sledgehammer fell on many perfectly sound nuts. Merely listening to what HM Inspectors of Schools have said over 30 years would have enabled the bad schools to be sorted out. Instead, the absurdly complicated National Curriculum of the 1980s was slapped down like a pastry-cutter on good and bad alike. While it may have improved the bad schools, it did incalculable harm to lots of good ones.

We have lost hundreds of teachers to frustration, early retirement and plain stress. The Dearing reform simplified the curriculum, but it remains prescriptive, fiddly and bureaucratic. Real teachers expend a great deal of ingenuity working out how to fit real education into its crabbed little boxes. I took a Norfolk wherry the other day with a keen bunch of primary schoolchildren who asked at one stage "Is this National Curriculum, Miss?" The teacher and I hastily assured them that it was geography (Norfolk Broads), history (authentic wherry), technology (the counterweighted mast) oral English (talking about it), elementary physics (how the sail works) and PE. But Miss had *not needed government* edict to know that a wherry trip, under sail, to launch the new Broads Plan was a solid-gold learning experience. Yet trips out have been curtailed under recent "reforms"; fun *has* been frowned *on* in primary schools, as has provocative argument in secondaries. A group doing their Standard Assessment Tests at 14 once told me that every time you learn a new skill in the technical workshop you have to tick it off, "only while you're waiting to mark it, you forget what it was". Of course it isn't always that bad: but the reason it isn't is that teachers, miraculously, squeeze in the magic and the fun and the wonder between the ruled government lines.

Good teachers *are* magic. They always were. They open doors to unsuspected glittering worlds. Ask any adult what they value from school and it will not be a certificate but a teacher. I straw-polled and got: "My chemistry teacher, because what he really taught was the satisfaction of logical thought"; "My English *teacher, because when I was* 13 he made me believe my idea of *King Lear* might be right"; "My Maths teacher, who got sick of trying to make us get Pythagoras on a summer afternoon and took us down to the beach and drew it in the sand, and suddenly we got the point. Apparently he didn't have permission to take the minibus, but we all liked Maths after that. He was on our side."

Last week a documentary followed the work of Michel Thomas, a hero of the Resistance turned language teacher to the Hollywood stars. He was given a group of 17-year-old rejects from a school French department, and taught them for a week by his idiosyncratic method of throwing out desks and homework and holding their attention by force of personality. By Friday *they* were happily constructing complex sentences with the prepositions in the right place, and laughing with triumph.

Mr Thomas told me later: "Learning is natural. All young creatures do it. Think *how boys know* all the details of football teams." Their usual teacher said that she had forgotten how much the actual *mastering* of a skill could satisfy children, because of the emphasis on "suitable" learning materials. A sense of excitement, of mastery, of co-operation and glee pervaded the experiment.

But where is the glee in our increasingly sour, competitive system? Michel Thomas throws out desks and tests for symbolic reasons, because he says tension and anxiety are the enemies of learning. But our education system is increasingly based on a worship of tension and anxiety (what else are tests and tables?), and on a synchronised striving for an arid, tightly defined status quo. Did we want it to be like this?

Don't forget the prosperous facts, says **Woodrow Wyatt**

The economy, cleverdicks

Labour's election campaigns used to be decent. This one is a malevolent manipulation of the scandal-loving media. The aim is to make Tory "sleaze" the principal issue. The "holier than thou" Christian moralist Mr Blair smirks above the fray, yet he failed to declare in the Commons Register of Interests his free return trip to America on Concorde; he will not comply with the code of practice on party funding; he will not publish the secret funds of his own office and he relies on trade union money for some 80 per cent of his party's cash.

In their folly, the Tories pour oil on the sleaze bonfire by not discarding Piers Merchant and Neil Hamilton. Both should go, because they are damaging the party's chances of remaining in office.

Cowardly Mr Blair is dodging the television debates with Mr Major that he once vociferously demanded. He is scared that details of the dismantling *of vital parts of the trade union* reforms in return for their silence until after the election will be exposed. He fears the spotlight turning to the job-losing implications of his pledge to join the EU social chapter. He wants all good news about Britain's surging economy and fast-rising prosperity to be buried.

Labour has run advertisements saying that Britain has slipped to 18th place in the phony world prosperity league, and Gordon Brown pontificates that "the true record of the last 16 to 17 years is one of our country falling further behind". Mr Blair frequently *denounces our poor investment* record.

But this is all refuted by Keith Marsden, who is an economics consultant to several UN agencies, a former operations adviser at the World Bank, and a senior economist in the International Labour Office. In his compelling booklet about Britain's economy seen from abroad, *Miracle or Mirage?*, the unimpeachable Mr Marsden writes that the evidence from the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the International Labour Office shows that Britain has outpaced most of its main rivals since 1979-80.

In the Group of Seven leading industrial nations (Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Italy and the US), Britain has been consistently among the top three in the accepted 12 key indicators. Britain's investment rose at an average annual rate of 3.7 per cent, well above Germany, France and Italy, which were in the range 0.3-0.8. We were topped only by America and Japan, at 4.1 per cent. Moreover, the OECD reports that Britain was the only G7 country to raise the productivity of its capital in the business sector during the 1979-95 period. We led in the growth of capital and labour combined, with an increase of 1.5 per cent annually — three times higher than America and nearly four times faster than Germany, according to Marsden.

During the last Labour Government, Britain languished next to bottom place in productivity growth, with annual rates between -1 and 0.6 per cent. Every indicator examined demonstrates our triumphant success since. The growth in private consumption per head has grown by 2.9 per cent a *year, the highest in the G7.*

Labour talks of John Major's broken tax promises, but we are the only G7 country to reduce the effective tax burden since 1980. In 1996, taxes took 36.8p out of every pound of national income, nearly 3p less than in 1980. The government's take is now nearly 9p in the pound below that in Germany, 10p below Italy's and more than 13p below France's.

Keith Marsden remarks that a striking feature of our success is that the gains are shared among all, not just the richest. The shares of the poorest 20 per cent and the richest 20 per cent of households in total *final income remained* constant from 1978 to 1994. So both groups enjoy the 37 per cent recorded increase in real income per household over the period. This destroys Tony Blair's claim that "unless you are one of the favoured few at the top, you are worse off under the Tories".

Labour's denigration of our national performance is an insult to the enterprise and hard work of our people, Mr Marsden concludes. Rubbishing one's country is distinctly unattractive. As Mr Blair intends to change so much for the worse, the same economic disasters would follow a new Labour government as always haunted old Labour governments. "That nation which will not learn from the past," wrote Aristotle, "is doomed to repeat it."

Be seated

A PILOT of the Queen's Flight who was carpeted two years ago for allowing the Prince of Wales to take control of his aircraft and crash-land on the Island of Islay has taken his revenge.

Squadron Leader Graham Laurie *took it on the nose when an* official Ministry of Defence report blamed him for the incident in 1994. Now he has blabbed about the Windsors' behaviour aboard his aeroplane. Despite continuing to fly for No 32, the Royal Squadron, he alleges that members of Royal Family regularly disregard safety regulations.

In an article for *RAF News* on the perils of being a royal pilot, Laurie says members of the Royal Family do not wear their seatbelts when they should. On his recent visit to the Ukraine with the Prince of Wales, he arrived in good time but was fearful of being delayed on the runway when he taxied in.

"You must never attempt to speed up" at this stage, he writes, "because, despite the 'fasten seat-belt signs', as soon as the aircraft lands, if you are a member of the Royal Household, it would appear to be mandatory to stand up."

Laurie added that he took $100,000 in new notes with him on the flight. "The officer in charge of accounts nearly had a heart attack . . . Alas, it is a fistful of US dollars that you need, or you do not get fuel or your flight plan processed."

Buckingham Palace has taken a dim view of his article; and Air Chief Marshall Sir Michael Graydon, the Chief of the Air Staff, has made it known that revelations about royal passengers cannot be tolerated.

Charles's plane: was someone distracting the pilot?

● *In one of the more plausible stunts this morning, the balloonist Richard Branson is offering Virgin Atlantic passengers the chance to celebrate the dawn of the millennium in space with him. An article outlining how to join the Virgin Millennium Space Mission has been inserted into the airline's inflight magazine* Hot-Air. *Interested parties calling the freephone number at the end of the article will be met with Branson's voice saying "April Fool. This is a rather nasty Richard Branson. We cannot yet fly you to the moon."*

Laundry lists

POLITICAL historians desperate for insights into Margaret Thatcher's mind will come empty away from the memoirs of Lord Peyton of Yeovil, the town's MP from 1951 to 1983. The former Transport Minister, whose autobiography, *Without Benefit of Laundry*, dwells at length on his days as a prisoner of war, devotes just a couple of paragraphs to her ladyship.

Peyton, who is much prized in the Lords for his crusty humour, challenged Thatcher in 1975 for the Tory leadership and was the only member of her Shadow Cabinet not to become a minister.

Thatcher invited him to dinner just after her election triumph, and he told her of his bitterness. "I want you to know how hurt and angry I was and am at the way you have behaved to me," he said, before warning her that some of her friends were unreliable. He finishes the anecdote with a tidy dismissal: "I have seen little or nothing of her since, and retain mixed impressions."

Ten to one

MEMBERS of the British Field Sports Society are so busy on their hobbyhorse about the right to ride to hounds that they seem to have forgotten how to count.

Last month, the society's chief executive, Robin Hanbury-Tenison, stated that more than a million people had written to Tony Blair to lobby for hunting — far more than in any previous campaign. Others of his ilk claimed that Blair had received more than 500,000 pro-hunting cards.

But numerate and diligent sources acquainted with Mr Blair's office insist that the numbers don't tally-ho. Just 43,020 cards have actually been received at the Leader of the Opposition's office, and the League Against Cruel Sports has notched up a small victory.

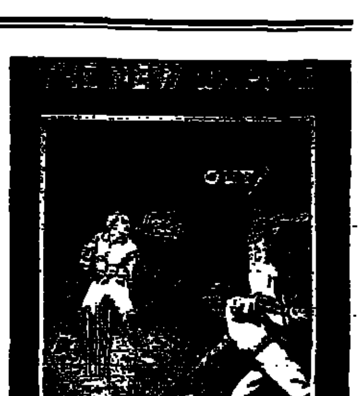
RETURN TO OLD TEACHING VALUES.
Geoff Thompson

"That is what I mean by a learning curve, Sims"

Striking back

LABOUR'S decision to abandon a £1 million negative advertising campaign, reported in yesterday's *Times*, and to plump instead for a positive message, has inspired one reader to call for the advertising standards of old.

He draws my attention to Labour's "New Umpire" poster from the 1929 election — the year after voting rights for men and women were equalised — in which a female umpire with the words "Woman Voter" on her scarf gives a flailing, pipe-smoking Baldwin run out by Labour's Ramsay Macdonald.



Gentler campaign days

The scene brings to mind the England of warm beer and idle summers which John Major so craves. But sleaze was nothing new even in those days, as shown by the account in John Lucas's *Budapest 1900* of a working visit by 20 or so Liberal MPs to Budapest in 1907. Apparently, after their final meeting, the MPs *popped into* the local brothel, leaving the new, reformist Hungarian government to pick up the tab.

P·H·S

هكذا من الإعلام

SILENCE OVER EUROPE

Time to tell the electorate about the greatest issue of all

After the false starts, the distractions and the fringe-of-battle skirmishes, the campaign proper begins. This week the manifestos are published; politicians and press begin the familiar routine of daily morning press conferences and tours of marginal seats in battle buses. The question of sleaze may finally begin to give way to detailed debate about policy. Meanwhile the party leaders will continue to conspire to keep the biggest issue off the agenda.

We refer, of course, to Europe and, in particular, to the single currency. Whoever wins the election will have to decide within a matter of months whether to attempt to join EMU in 1999. Should the first entry wave go ahead at that time John Major cannot say what he would like to say — that a Tory administration would not enter the single currency in the next Parliament — because his deputy, Michael Heseltine, and his Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, will not let him. Tony Blair is, if that is possible, even more opaque. He has already cited "formidable obstacles" to Britain's joining the first wave, but it is not clear from his pronouncements whether he is for or against the principle of joining later.

Sometimes, in an attempt to gain the pro-integration vote, Mr Blair seems to be saying that he thinks a single currency is desirable, necessary and inevitable; and that, if it goes ahead, Britain must be part of it. At other times, he rehearses the economic arguments that make a single currency an impossibility without huge transfers of money across borders — until, that is, the economies of Europe have converged so neatly that the Continent resembles a country in all but name.

The parties' equivocations about British membership of EMU are not the only worry. For, if Mr Blair is right about the economic absurdity of imposing a single currency on disparate member states (which he is), then he ought to be deliberating about how to stop this disastrous plan even if Britain remains outside it. For, according to his impeccable argument, the weaker states that join EMU are going to end up with immovably high levels of unemployment unless the richer states are prepared to subsidise them to a far greater extent than they do or are ever likely to do.

Not only, therefore, is a single currency on the Continent likely to lead to slow growth and poor export markets for Britain. It could also create dangerous social dislocation in the weaker countries and taxpayer revolts in the stronger ones. A more effective recipe for the rise of nationalism and the break-up of the EU could hardly be designed.

So what is the new Prime Minister going to do about this? Britain holds the presidency of the EU in the first half of next year when the critical decisions about EMU have to be taken. There are signs all over the Continent, from France to Germany to Italy to the Netherlands, that politicians and voters have cold feet about the project. The nearer it comes, the harder are the facts. None of the prospective members wants to lose face by asking for an indefinite postponement. Britain, which has nothing to lose by doing so, could lead those nations that can see folly ahead and want to grasp this last chance to avoid it before it is too late.

Mr Major has lost most of his credibility in Europe through a series of misjudgments culminating in last summer's beef war. Mr Blair might be better placed. He is known not to share the visceral anti-European sentiments of many Tories. If he were to caution the other states on the dangers of EMU, he could not be misinterpreted as doing so merely to mollify his party. Unlike Mr Major, he is relatively free to speak his mind. But he has so far failed to do so.

This is unfair to voters; and it is also wrong for Europe. There is still the chance of building an alliance against this misguided lurch to a single currency. If Mr Blair really believes that constructive engagement is a possibility for Britain in Europe, then he should start talking about it now. To what end will he use this engagement? Both the British electorate and the EU member states deserve to know what the man who wants to be Prime Minister next month intends to do with his power.

SHAMEFUL ISOLATION

Boycotting Israel will not help the peace process

The meeting of the Arab League in Cairo has been portrayed as a victory for the radicals. In truth, it was a triumph for the reactionaries. Those forces, led by Syria, which have never been reconciled to the peace process exploited the present tense atmosphere in the region to ram through their preferred alternative. Those measures included the suspension of all normalisation efforts and the restoration of the economic boycott against Israel.

The stance taken by the 22 foreign ministers effectively turns back the clock to before the present peace process started with the Madrid conference of October, 1991. It ignores all the considerable progress that has been painstakingly made since that point. It wraps itself in the symbols of an era when the Arab world considered itself in permanent conflict with an Israeli state that had no right to exist within any borders.

In a curious inversion of language and logic, those states who pressed hardest for a renewed isolation of Israel claimed their intention was to place the peace process back on track. Syria's Foreign Minister, Farouq al-Shara, argued that the boycott call would "exert influence" on Israeli public opinion and therefore the Netanyahu Government. As public opinion is not a factor that receives much prominence in the regime of President Assad, Mr al-Shara might be forgiven for misinterpreting its likely impact in Israel. Threats and blackmail are more likely to rally opinion behind the Prime Minister there than lead to a clamour for concessions.

The Arab League resolutions constituted an attack on the United States as well as Israel. The vote came after another mission by the American mediator, Dennis Ross, had failed to produce a summit between Mr Netanyahu and Yassir Arafat. For his troubles, Mr Ross was denounced by Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political affairs department, as a "biased Zionist" whose trip had been deliberately designed to scupper the peace process. These were shameful comments that should be disowned by Mr Arafat.

The militant attitude adopted in Cairo is all the more unfortunate because there have been some signs of restored co-operation between Israel and the Palestine National Authority. The riots that have raged throughout the West Bank over the past week would have been much worse had it not been for the efforts of the Palestinian police. Mr Arafat has at least shown rhetorical restraint since the Tel Aviv suicide bombing. The admirable reaction from King Hussein of Jordan after one of his soldiers slaughtered seven Israeli school children has made a lasting and positive impression. The preconditions for a revival of dialogue may yet fall into place.

All that, though, is dependent on trust. If further terrorist outrages follow the Arab League meeting then the Netanyahu Government will regard the two events as directly connected and respond accordingly. The Cairo communique has signalled that many Arab states regard the peace process solely as a forum for the capitulation of the Israeli Government to their demands. Such an approach will only isolate those governments from the real benefits the entire Middle East would receive from a genuine peace settlement.

THE LAST TRAIN

May we never have to be nostalgic for BR

The last passenger train operated by British Rail, a night sleeper from Euston, is due to pull into Fort William at 10.45 this morning, taking to its Highland terminus almost 50 years of state stewardship of Britain's railway network. As the bands pipe in a new dawn for ScotRail, the last of the 25 franchises to pass into private hands, some across the country may quietly mourn the death of BR, that much mocked transport conglomorate that somehow, by the end of its troubled life, found a way into the nation's heart.

Despite the curled sandwiches, the stewed tea, the leaves on the line and the insanity of its trade unions, BR was never quite as bad as the satirists loved to insist. Indeed, albeit at colossal public cost, it can claim to have left the railways in better shape than it found them. When the British Transport Commission took control of the Big Four on January 1, 1948, it inherited a network that was almost bankrupt. Some 700,000 people and 8,000 horses worked on the railways, operating a fleet of 20,459 locomotives, many of them already museum pieces. The network covered 20,000 miles, almost twice its present size, and barely a town in Britain did not boast a station. The average railwayman earned £7 a week.

The network and workforce were drastically slimmed down. Modernisation, launched in 1955 with a £1,200 million budget, foreshadowed the end of the days when there was time for an Agatha Christie, a chat with fellow passengers and a full dinner as the expresss pounded to Penzance. Night fell for steam when the last engine left Swindon works in 1960: the haunting chug was last heard eight years later.

Like the nation, however, BR rallied. InterCity was eventually so successful that it dispensed with all subsidies in 1988 and was copied across the Continent. The InterCity 125, after some queasy experiments with a failed tilting train, was followed by the 225. BR embraced new concepts: profit centres, sectorisation and market share.

By now there was nostalgia for the original British Railways: the regional liveries, clanking goods wagons, Edwardian transport hotels, morning tea in the old sleepers, ill-fitting uniforms and yes, even the surly porters, erratic timetables, grime, smoke and missed connections. Now the entire history of BR joins pre-nationalisation travel in nostalgic formaldehyde. Welcome, again, to the days of private companies. An even bigger welcome to a regulator to step in where services are cancelled, fares structures labyrinthine and through ticketing available to only the brave. BR, as your sleeper comes to a halt in Fort William, we do not want to miss you.

P.H.S

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Conflict on law of medical consent

From Lord Ashbourne and Mr Gerard Wright, QC

Sir, Arrangements have been made for ambassadors to the Council of Europe to attend at Oviedo in Spain on April 4 and there sign, on behalf of their respective countries, a Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine. The convention has been drafted under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

Part of this convention is in direct conflict with a basic principle of our law. Our law does not permit any person unable to give a valid consent to be subjected to any medical procedure which does not have the potential to benefit directly the person subjected to it. We do not permit unconsenting people to be used as human guinea pigs.

However, Article 17(2) of the convention does permit medical procedures and research of this kind. The convention has never been debated in Parliament. It has never been the subject of scrutiny by a select committee. This convention will conflict with a basic human right which our law protects and respects. If HMG is still considering whether to adhere to it, we strongly urge that it should not do so — as, we believe, is the view, for example, of the German Government.

Yours faithfully,
ASHBOURNE,
GERARD WRIGHT
Alert (Against Legalised Euthanasia — Research and Teaching),
27 Walpole Street, SW3.
March 19.

NHS aid to fight crime

From Professor Jonathan Shepherd

Sir, In response to the latest recorded crime figures, the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, emphasised the importance of police community partnerships in fighting crime (report, March 18). Since recorded violence continues to increase and victims of violence need medical treatment he, or his successor, would do well to explore ways in which the NHS could contribute.

In the context of research published over the last ten years, which has highlighted the extent of unreported and unrecorded violence that leads to treatment, it is astonishing that this has not been done before.

Taking into account the ethical issues such an initiative would raise, access to victim support services could be increased, the injured could be given increased and timely opportunities to report offences and more offenders could be identified. Most importantly, perhaps, the medical community could contribute its substantial influence to the fight against violence, particularly from the victim's perspective. This influence has been instrumental in developing inter-agency child protection and the introduction of drink-drive and seat-belt legislation.

The burden on medical services of increasing violence is manifest now in terms of the need for staff protection. NHS reforms have also increased awareness of the financial burden imposed by injuries, to the extent that the right of the NHS to recoup medical costs from defendants is increasingly recognised. It is time these concerns were dealt with together, through a new criminal justice/health service partnership.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN SHEPHERD,
University of Wales
College of Medicine,
Department of Oral Surgery,
Medicine and Pathology,
Heath Park, Cardiff.
March 30.

Facilities for disabled

From Mr Peter Field

Sir, When President Clinton arrived in Helsinki (report and photograph, March 21) there seemed to be surprise in some media at the lack of facilities for those who use wheelchairs. I use a powered chair and would guess that only a small minority of London's public venues are accessible to me.

I recently attended an official function at a leading London hotel. My fellow wheelchair user and I had to be escorted into the ballroom via the laundry-room entrance at the rear. We could not enjoy the pre-lunch reception as it was up a short flight of stairs.

The occasion was an "equal opportunities" awards ceremony.

Yours sincerely,
PETER FIELD,
9 Underhill Close,
Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Visionary thinking

From Dr W. I. Pumphrey

Sir, In this age of almost incredible technical achievement, a well-intentioned millennium committee in Minehead has proposed a pier as a fitting legacy to future generations in the 21st century and beyond.

Surely there must be something more nostalgic that would merit consideration — a bicycle clip museum, perhaps, or a windmill?

Yours faithfully,
W. I. PUMPHREY,
Old Orchard, Trendle Lane,
Bicknoller, Taunton, Somerset.

Mandelson replies to Rees-Mogg

From Mr Peter Mandelson, MP for Hartlepool (Labour)

Sir, In his article, "The sleaze campaign discredits Labour too" (March 31), William Rees-Mogg scales new peaks in the history of unreason.

His overall "case" is that the press is concentrating on an anti-Tory sleaze campaign on two fronts, sex and cash for questions; because the Tories are losing on both fronts at the same time, it must be a single campaign; because the Tories are suffering and Labour gaining, Labour must be promoting the campaign and I am personally responsible because I am seen as "the greatest spin doctor since Goebbels" and that "this sleaze campaign will inevitably be seen" as my "masterpiece".

Even Dr Goebbels would have concluded that if that was the best he could do he would be letting the black arts down.

What is Rees-Mogg's evidence in support of his "case"? He declares that "plainly" the sleaze campaign "has not been masterminded by Tory spin doctors", for the Tory party is the target. That leads him to question "is it, in fact, a Labour campaign?" He also asserts that "the newspapers that have carried the key stories support Labour", but then he says "there is no conspiracy between those newspapers". So the best he can do is assert that "the Labour Party is in continuous contact with all of these newspapers". To which, even if true, there is one response, so what?

Finally, he turns his searchlight on Scotland with the question "Can one suppose that Labour had no prior knowledge that the Hirst and Stewart stories were going to be published?" The innuendo that Labour was informing the press is laughable. We had absolutely nothing to do with either of those two stories and have said nothing except to express sympathy for the individuals concerned.

Labour condemns cash for questions. Those responsible have brought confidence in the standards of public life to an all-time low. That is a legitimate election issue.

Another legitimate issue is why the Government chose not to give Sir Gordon Downey a deadline for his report which he had to meet to ensure publication before the general election.

Labour agrees with those Conservatives who believe that Mr Neil Hamilton, MP, should go now, along with other Tories in the same position.

Let me emphasise we have had nothing whatsoever to do with stories concerning the private lives of Tory MPs or officials. If Rees-Mogg has any evidence to the contrary, he should present it. In the meantime, it is insulting to portray newspapers as marionnettes in a media show promoted by Labour. It is also, simply, not true.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MANDELSON
(Labour Election
Campaign Manager),
John Smith House
150 Walworth Road, SE17.
March 31.

Response to proposed 'drugs czar'

From Mr Tim Rathbone, MP for Lewes (Conservative)

Sir, You are so right to question Tony Blair's plans for a "drugs czar" to lead the "war on drugs" (leading article, March 26). The idea and the phrases used are inappropriate to the solution of this considerable problem.

In the US the job of czar is almost entirely dedicated to squeezing funds out of Congress and gathering the necessary persuasive information to do so. In Britain that is being done by the Central Drugs Co-ordination Unit, established by John Major in May 1992, reporting to a Cabinet subcommittee chaired by the Lord President of the Council.

Previously, looser co-ordination took place within an inter-departmental ministerial group, started largely under pressure from the All-Party Drugs Misuse Group ten years ago. There is nothing "belated" about co-ordination, as Tony Blair claims.

You suggest that a czarist presence is more likely to disrupt good works already going on than enhance their efficacy. I agree. Local Drug Action Teams (DATs) are only just getting going properly as the Home Office drugs initiative develops. Better health education in schools is only just beginning to be achieved with more and more teachers able to support it.

Practically every week there is another international agreement struck to improve intelligence sharing, to tackle production and trafficking and to make law enforcement generally more effective. Improved counselling and treatment facilities in prisons and elsewhere are being introduced. A czarist shake-up could destroy all this co-ordinated effort and antagonise the extensive voluntary work that is part of it.

All in all, Labour's drugs initiative must, I fear, be seen as a missed opportunity — a rather crude burnishing of its law and order attitudes, riding on the back of continued alarm about Britain's drugs problem.

Yours truly,
TIM RATHBONE
(Chairman, Parliamentary
All-Party Drugs Misuse Group),
House of Commons.
March 26.

From the Chief Executive of the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse

Sir, Tony Blair is right to recognise the scale of the problems associated with drugs and their spread within local communities.

In announcing plans to appoint a "drugs czar" reporting to a Cabinet-level committee (report, March 25) he has responded to the need to strengthen long-term national planning at cross-departmental and inter-agency level. What will be critical will be the neutrality of this figurehead — and of the senior Cabinet minister to whom he or she reports — and their openness to new and radical measures.

There are three things a new government should do. First and foremost, it should realign public expenditure on tackling drugs towards an increased emphasis on education, prevention and treatment. These services are effective in reducing demand, yet their accessibility varies widely across the country and they command no more than one third of the current Government drug misuse budget.

Secondly, government should introduce measures allowing early intervention with high risk children and families. Thirdly, radical measures are needed to divert drug misusers out of the criminal justice system into treatment. This will lead to a reduction in drug-related crime and significantly reduce costs to the taxpayer.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER HOWARD, Chief Executive,
Standing Conference on Drug Abuse,
32-36 Loman Street, SE1.
March 25.

Prison reports

From Mr Hugh Boulter

Sir, Sir Stephen Tumim's timely contribution, "Let the punishment stop the crime" (March 28), reminds us of the important part played by successive chief inspectors of prisons. However, for them to be effective their reports must be published in good time, and many Boards of Visitors are deeply concerned about the delays which are currently occurring.

The Prison Service released the reports on Wormwood Scrubbs and Albany just before Parliament rose. However, many other reports remain unpublished, of which the most long-standing is that on Featherstone. The inspection took place in February 1996 and the report has languished in Prison Service Headquarters and the Home Office since the middle of last year.

At a time when the Prison Service is under great pressure, it is vitally important, if confidence is to be retained, that the public has speedy access to Sir David Ramsbotham's trenchant reports.

Whoever forms the next government should give an undertaking that reports will be published within ten weeks of the completion of the inspection.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH BOULTER
(Member, Boards of Visitors
National Advisory Council),
c/o HM Young Offender Institution
and Remand Centre,
Forbury Road,
Reading, Berkshire.
March 27.

Preserving archives

From the Chairman of the Society of Archivists

Sir, Professor Sir Graham Hills (letter, March 25) puzzles me: is he really advocating the destruction of many of our records?

One of the skills of an archivist is to preserve only those documents which will be valuable for historical research. Professor Hills can be assured that we destroy more material than we keep — probably more than many historians would wish.

Yours faithfully,
KATE THOMPSON,
Chairman,
Society of Archivists,
Information House,
20-24 Old Street, EC1.
March 27.

Joy of housework

From Mrs Naomi Gould

Sir, Just who are these women, described in the article about the pleasures of housework (March 24), who so selfishly insist on cleaning their own homes?

Personally, I intend to go on creating employment for my deserving cleaning lady, thereby selflessly denying myself the joys of dusting, scrubbing and vacuum cleaning my house.

Yours faithfully,
NAOMI GOULD,
The Coppice,
22 Downs Road, Epsom, Surrey.
March 24.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Future standards for cinema and TV

From the General Secretary of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association

Sir, Brenda Maddox (Media and marketing, March 26) does well to highlight a very real problem of determining acceptable standards for the future in television and film offered for the nation's entertainment.

That the British Board of Film Classification certified *Crash* after taking legal advice (letters, March 21) points to a deficiency in the Obscene Publications Act, long ago identified by this association, and demonstrates, again, that the board's primary interest is the film industry rather than the public good.

The scenes described from *Cracker*, by any interpretation, fail to meet the statutory requirements on "good taste and decency" as set out in the Broadcasting Act 1990.

The truth is that standards have declined because those whom Parliament has appointed to regulate such matters have, in our opinion, failed in their duties.

TV programmes and films are not the result of blind chance: programme makers set out with deliberate intent and are shielded by the broadcasting authorities who appear not to act for the public good, according to their statutory duties, but for the narrow interests of those who seek to overthrow, incrementally, standards of decency in the name of art and freedom of expression.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN C. BEYER,
General Secretary,
National Viewers' and
Listeners' Association,
All Saints House,
High Street, Colchester, Essex.
March 26.

From Mr Roy Martin

Sir, Mr Peter Noonan asserts in his letter that the public expects film censors to protect the mores and values of British society.

I am a member of that public when I visit the cinema and I do not expect censors to do any such thing. Furthermore, I do not regard our mores and values as so wonderful that they stand in need of protection — it is more important to question them.

I certainly don't wish to be "protected" in what I choose to see by a quango like the British Board of Film Classification.

Yours faithfully,
ROY MARTIN,
4/28 Helmsdale Close,
Reading, Berkshire.
March 22.

German map auction

From Dr G. L. Bolt

Sir, One German map of England came here in a most extraordinary way (letter, March 24) and hangs in a farmhouse not far from here, with glass on both sides of the frame.

My friend, the farmer, was a tank commander and one morning was handed a map for his part in the advance across Europe. The British field cartographers had used captured German papers, printing on the unused side; when he turned the map over my friend found his own farm and nearby village, clearly part of a planned invasion of East Anglia.

His emotions on seeing his own fields accurately drawn can hardly be imagined.

Yours faithfully,
G. L. BOLT,
11 Nelson Street,
King's Lynn, Norfolk.
March 24.

Soaking up science

From Mrs Anne Carman

Sir, The two scientists (report, March 27) who calculated their comparative wetness when walking or running to find shelter from the rain have failed to take account of an important consideration.

When confronted with a sudden downpour I have always immediately weighed the loss of personal dignity involved in a sudden scuttle for shelter against the kudos of the stiff upper lip and the refusal to acknowledge the inconvenience of a little dampness.

Furthermore, as a sturdy Scot, I have always taken issue with my Sassenach friends over their interpretation of any precipitation: what they call drizzle we call *haar*, what they call steady rain we call drizzle, and what they call a downpour we find "a wee bit damp".

Yours etc,
ANNE CARMAN,
7 Bedford Court,
Mowbray Road, SE19.
March 27.

From Mr Mycal Miller

Sir, I am sure we are all very grateful to the scientists who have proved it is better to run for shelter than to walk.

Perhaps they could now turn their attention to the vexing question of the apparent causal relationship between forgetting to take an umbrella and the likelihood of precipitation.

Yours faithfully,
MYCAL MILLER,
20 Hamlet Square, NW2.
March 27.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 31: The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Air Commodore the Hon. Timothy Elworthy to be Director of Travel and Her Majesty's Senior Air Equerry.

Birthdays today

Miss Brigitte Askonas, FRS, immunologist, 74; Mr George Baker, actor, 66; Mr Cynog Dafis, MP, 59; Mr David J. Davies, chairman and chief executive, Johnson Matthey, 57; the Rev Norman Drummond, Scottish Governor, BBC, and Chairman Broadcasting Council for Scotland, 75.

Mr Alex Falconer, MEP, 57; Professor R. Floud, Provost, London Guildhall University, 55; Sir Anthony Gill, former chairman and chief executive, Lucas Industries, 67; Mr David Gower, cricketer, 40; Sir Nicholas Henderson, diplomat, 78; the Earl of Ilchester, 77; Baroness McFarlane of Llandaff, 71; Professor M.L. McGlashan, chemist, 73; Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, former High Court judge, 71; Mr John Murdoch, director, Courtauld Gallery, 52.

Professor Sir Dimitri Obolensky, FBA, Russian and Balkan historian, 79; Mrs Marie Patterson, trade unionist, 63; Mr Charles H. Price, II, American diplomat, 66.

Mr Steve Race, musician and broadcaster, 76; Dr R.C. Repp, Master, St Cross College, Oxford, 61; *Miss Sheila Whitaker*, former director, London Film Festival, 61; Mr Dafydd Wigley, MP, 54; Professor Sir Dillwyn Williams, former president, Royal College of Pathologists, 68.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Harvey, physician, discoverer of the circulation of the blood, Folkestone, 1578; Prince Otto von Bismarck, Chancellor of Germany 1871-90, Schönhausen, 1815; Sir Truby King, *pioneer of mothercraft*, New Plymouth, New Zealand, 1858; Lon Chaney, actor, Colorado Springs, California, 1883; Dame Cicely Courtneidge, actress, Sydney, New South Wales, 1893.

DEATHS: Ferenc Molnár, dramatist, New York, 1952; Max Ernst, Surrealist painter and sculptor, Paris, 1976; Marvin Gaye, singer, shot by his father, Los Angeles, 1984.

The Territorial Army, a force of volunteer soldiers mainly for home defence, was formed in Britain, 1908.

The RAF was formed, absorbing the Royal Flying Corps, 1918.

American forces invaded Okinawa, 1945.

The United States launched its first weather satellite, 1960.

Hong Kong Military Service Corps

The Hong Kong Military Service Corps disbanded yesterday. The corps was formed on September 1, 1962, *but can trace its history* further back, directly to the Hong Kong Chinese Training Unit, which was formed in 1948 and, less directly, to 1857 and the Canton Chinese Commissariat.

Tribes are accused of burying knowledge with bones

By NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

POLITICAL correctness in the treatment of ancient human remains is leading to a loss of scientific knowledge that would benefit humanity as a whole, say two anthropologists.

While the recent remains of identifiable individuals should be given back to relatives or descendants, more general claims by indigenous peoples to remains found in their territories are less compelling than the public interest, the New Zealand experts say.

Among the most striking recent cases have been the return by the Musuem of Victoria, Australia, of the 10,000-year-old Kow Swamp bones, the largest collection of ancient remains from the continent, to Aboriginal activists, who are believed to have destroyed them; the repatriation by the Smithsonian *Institution* of 1,000 prehistoric skeletons and associated grave goods to Arctic Kodiak islanders; and the pressure in Israel *by Orthodox Jews which has prohibited* research on skeletal remains less than 5,000 years old.

Gareth Jones and Robyn Harris write in *Nature*: "Some believe that the destruction of ancient evidence by indigenous communities is no better than European cultural imperialism." Scientific freedom is compromised by repatriation, and archaeologists and anthropologists are not responsible for atrocities committed over a century ago, they add.

"*Governments* are often unwilling to support science when the contentious issue of reconciliation with indigenous peoples is involved," the two men say. These peoples "claim the sole right to determine how remains are to be treated, overriding the genuine interest of others in the material".

Where no identifiable links with a living person or group can be established, Dr Jones and Dr Harris suggest, "the remains should be available *for reputable scientific investigation*, as the findings are, in the broadest terms, applicable to all humanity. Consent has become of secondary importance, as no living being is in a position to provide consent."

Scientists who uncover prehistoric material should have control over it in the short term, they argue. Nevertheless, as human remains, they retain moral value: continuing analysis is the only excuse for not reburying them.

"What is most important is that the material is used to contribute to our understanding of human development and culture."

Amateur artists draw up a case for earning Times community award

Crafts weave their magic for disabled

By JOHN YOUNG

WHEN three cheery old men, members of a group called Rascals, gather at a public library in east London, it begins to sound like the start of a television sit-com. In fact they are the leading lights of a remarkable organisation that encourages elderly and disabled people to discover that painting, drawing and other forms of creative art can transform their lives.

Rascals — an acronym — was founded six years ago by Philip Joseph, 71, who was wounded in the Second World War while serving with the *Royal Signals in Germany* and who suffers from spinal damage. He worked in a film studio and as a signwriter before being invited to take classes at an art centre for disabled people.

This persuaded him that art could play a therapeutic role in relieving boredom and depression for a much bigger group of people. Rascals, which works on a shoestring, *has* nearly 300 members, ranging in age from early fifties to centenarians; it runs classes in painting, sketching, glass etching, copperwork, marquetry, pottery, needlework and calligraphy; and holds exhibitions in local halls, libraries and community centres.

"People come to me and say they can't draw," Mr Joseph, of Chadwell Heath, east London, said. "My answer is, 'I know you can't, because otherwise you can't be here'. But I reckon anyone can be taught, provided they want to learn, and it gives them a sense of self-achievement and camaraderie."

Phillip Rozelaar, 71, of Newbury Park, formerly worked as a tailor's cutter in Savile Row. He took up drawing two years ago with Mr Joseph's encouragement, after developing Parkinson's disease.

David Edwards, 58, of Hainault, is disabled by cancer and arthritis but is able to teach a marquetry class: "I took it up only after I became ill, but I wish I had done so years ago."

As each member becomes more accomplished, he or she is invited to teach newcomers. Friendships develop, exhibitions become social occasions and there are outings to the countryside where members can apply their palettes to depicting a village church or a row of timbered cottages.

The group seeks a building for use as a permanent arts centre but its only income comes from subscriptions of £500 and two small grants from Wimpey, the builders, and an unnamed charitable trust. Members have sold a few items of work but are not particularly interested in finding customers. "They're not in this to make money but to find a new interest in life," Mr Joseph said.

☐ *Rascals (Restart) is among entries for the 1996 Community Enterprise Awards organised by Business in the Community and sponsored by The Times and Deloitte & Touche. Winners will be announced in the next few weeks.*

PETER TRIEVNOR

David Edwards, Phil Joseph and Phil Rozelaar with samples of Rascals' work

University news

Reading

Recent research grants and contracts include:

From the research councils:

Professor C M Williams (Food Science and Technology), £100,925 from the Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council; can *the metabolic effects of dietary N-3 PUF be explained by changes in the expression of lipase genes in adipose tissue?*

Professor M Bowker and Dr P Hollins (Chemistry), £367,542 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council; structure activity relationships in surface reactions on metals and oxides.

Dr C Kambhampati and Professor K Warwick *(Cybernetics), £127,143* from the EPSRC; non-linear control using recurrent neural networks.

Professor K Warwick and Dr R J Mitchell (Cybernetics), £112,246 from the EPSRC; control and monitoring information display *using intelligent systems.*

Dr P M Riddell (Psychology), £210,370 from Medical Research Council; development of reciprocal linkages between Vergen and accommodation in human infants.

Mr R Hunneman (Cybernetics), £185,318 from the Natural Environment Research Council; research, *development and supply of infrared* filters for high resolution dynamics limb sounder.

From other bodies:

Dr G T McKee (Computer Science), £55,520 from BT Networks and Systems; malicious agents research.

Dr D A Keating (Cybernetics), £39,400 from BT Networks and Systems; PhD studentship.

Dr J Vincent and Professor G Jeronimidis (Centre for Biomimetics/SAMS), £40,000 from the Defence Research Agency; biomimetics of damage tolerance in wood.

Dr J A D W Anderson and Dr T Tan (Computer Science), £80,120 from the DTI and Documentary Video Associates Ltd; teaching company scheme.

Professor M J C Crabbe, Dr J Grainger and Mr J P Bowen (Computer Science), £80,120 from *the Department of Trade and* Industry and Polyhedron Software Ltd; teaching company scheme.

Professor R Burch and Dr S C E Tsang (Chemistry) in collaboration with the TCS Centre, £80,120 from the DTI; *for TCS programme.*

Dr R J Mitchell and Mr P R Minchinton (Cybernetics) in col*laboration with TCS Centre*, £80,120 from DTI for TCS programme.

Mr R Reynolds (Meteorology), £69,847 from the European Commission; Euromet 1.

Dr M Hilton (Physics), £32,400 from the European Commission; *non-intrusive measurements* of aircraft engine exhaust emissions.

Professor C McCann (Postgraduate Research Institute for Sedimentology), £33,708 from Heriot-Watt University; project Pegasus — programme in petrophysics.

Professor J D Schofield (Food *Science and Technology), £49,814* from Home-Grown Cereals Authority; rapid assessment of wheat quality, including differentiation of "extra-strong" cultivars using the computerised two-gram direct drive mixograph.

Professor P J Cooper (Psychology), *£425,906 from South Thames* NHS Executive; evaluation of preventative intervention for postnatal depression and associated difficulties in the mother-infant relationship.

Professor C J Garforth (Agricultural Extension and Rural Development), £193,752 from the *Overseas Development Administration*; equity implications of reforms in the financing and delivery of agricultural extension services.

Mr G F Pearce (Cybernetics), £63,692 from Sun Microsystems Ltd; multi-disciplinary IT *resourcing.*

Dr A S Vaughan (Physics), £46,175 from the National Grid Co; dielectric breakdown in high performance polyethylene blends.

Dr A S Vaughan (Physics), £54,076 from the National Grid Co; polymeric materials with controlled *conductivities for use in high* voltage applications.

Dr A S Vaughan (Physics), £33,769 from the National Grid Co; characterisation of polymeric surfaces using laser ablation techniques.

Dr C M Lizieri (Land Manage*ment and Development), £35,000* from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors; changes in the business space market and the impact on lease structures and property investments.

Latest wills

Hermine Magdalen **Clutton-Brock**, of Seaford, East Sussex, left estate valued at £1,122,354 net.

She left £1,000 each to Sue Ryder Foundation, St Joseph's Hospice, Mind, Marie Curie Memorial *Foundation*, Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research, Salvation Army, National Kidney Research Fund, Searchlight Workshops for Disabled Men and the Royal UK Beneficient Association.

Noella Mary **Horwood**, of Frinton on Sea, Essex, left estate valued at £1,004,430 net.

She left £100,000 to the Imperial *Cancer Research Fund.*

Josiah **Lewis**, of Keinton Mandeville, Somerset, left estate valued at £2,491,668 net.

John William Emslie **Rawle**, of Bowerchalke, Salisbury, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £1,691,359 net.

George Edward **Tribe**, of March, Cambridgeshire, left estate valued at £2,040,005 net.

Irma Eleonore **Levin**, of London NW8, left estate valued at £1,594,673 net.

Gertrude May **Lloyd**, of London SW1, left estate valued at *£6,261,753 net.*

She left £500 to St Saviour's Church, London SW3, and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund; £250 to Moorfields Eye Hospital, £200 to the Brooke Hospital for Animals, Cairo, and £100 to Eventide Work Salvation Army.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr B.J. Ely
and Miss J.C.C. Tedder

The engagement is announced between Benedict, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Philip Ely, of Crawley, Winchester, Hampshire, and Julia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Tedder, of Okenhill Hall, Badingham, Suffolk.

Mr K. Hann
and Miss L.C. Loxton

The engagement is announced between Keith, younger *son of the* late Mr and Mrs W.H. Hann, of Newcastle upon Tyne, and Louise Christine, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Rand Loxton, of Stapleton, Bristol.

Mr R.F.A. Pemberton
and Miss H.R. Boileau

The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Antony Pemberton, of Haslingfield, Cambridge, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Raymond Boileau, of Rampisham, Dorset.

Mr A.E.M. Stratton
and Miss L.J. Towler

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Mark Stratton, of Witton, Norfolk, and Lucy Jane, daughter of Mrs Wendy Towler and Mr Geoffrey Towler, of Brundall, Norfolk.

Church news

Appointments

Canon David Baxter, Vice-Provost and Precentor of Wakefield Cathedral (Wakefield): to be appointed a Canon Emeritus of Wakefield Cathedral on his retirement.

The Rev David Bliss, Team Vicar, Aston-cum-Aughton w Swallownest, Todwith and Ulley: to be *also* Chaplain with Deaf People (Sheffield).

The Rev Michael Burley, Team Vicar, Drypool Team Min: to be Vicar, Sutton, St Michael (York).

The Rev Robert Charles, Vicar, Crossens (Liverpool): to be Vicar, Budleigh Salterton (Exeter).

The Rev Jeremy Clark, Curate, St Stephens, Shirley, Christ Church, New Zealand: to be Curate, Upton/Overchurch (Chester).

The Rev Elwin Cockett, Priest-in-charge, St Paul, Harold Hill: to be Vicar, St Paul, Harold Hill (Chelmsford).

The Rev Ted Cosens, Honorary Curate, Immingham: to be Chaplain to the Missions to Seamen at Avonmouth *(Bristol)*.

The Rev Stuart East, Rector, Upper Ryedale (York): to be Vicar, Macclesfield St Paul (Chester).

The Rev Pat Farquhar, Curate, St John of Jerusalem w Christ Church, South Hackney: now *also* Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral.

The Rev Michael Fudger, Team Vicar, Attercliffe, Darnall and Tinsley: to be Team Rector, Attercliffe, Darnall and Tinsley (Sheffield).

The Rev Bob Hollings, Curate, Christ Church, Cotmanhay and Shipley (Derby): to be Team Vicar, *St Erth, Godrevy Team Ministry* (Truro).

The Rev Lindsay Hughes, Curate, Ilkeston, St Mary: to be Priest-in-charge, Langley Mill, w Aldercar (Derby).

The Rev Jonathan Hutchinson, Vicar, Thorington w Wenhaston, *Bramfield and Walberswick*: to be Team Vicar, South West Ipswich Team Ministry, w special responsibility for St Peter's, Stoke Park (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Malcolm Johnson, Master Emeritus of The Royal Foundation of St Katharine: to be Bishop *of London's Adviser for Pastoral* Care and Counselling (London).

The Rev Christopher Kitchener, Vicar, St Mary, Gravesend: to be Vicar, St Mark, Biggin Hill (Rochester).

PERSONAL COLUMN

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It is my confident hope that nothing will daunt me or prevent me from speaking boldly; and that now as always Christ will display his greatness in me, whether the verdict be life or death.
Philippians 1 : 20

BIRTHS

BASCOMBE - Andrew (Barts) and Debs (née Bolt) are delighted to announce the express delivery of Rory John on 26th March 1997. A brother for Emma and Sally.

DRINKWATER - On March 27th in New Jersey, USA, to James and Charlotte, a daughter, Lucy, a sister for Emily and Katie.

KNIGHT - On 27th March at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton to Gary and Georgina, a son, Hugo Christopher.

DEATHS

ALDER - On March 27th peacefully at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, Freda, beloved wife of George. Funeral Service at Westerleigh Crematorium, Bristol, on Friday April 4th at 12 noon. No flowers by request. Donations in lieu if desired for Frenchay Health Care NHS Trust Coronary Care Unit c/o T.B. & H. Pendock, The Poplars, Hambrook, Bristol, BS16 1RD, tel: (01179) 566774.

ARTHUR - Major George Leonard, peacefully on March 29th in his 90th year. Beloved husband of [illegible] and father of Gwyn and the late Compton. Private family funeral. Flowers and enquiries T. Cribb & Sons 0171 476 1855.

BALÁZS - Martha ([illegible]), died suddenly on 21st March 1997, aged 72. Artist, wife to Robert and mother of Anna, John and Suzi. Grandmother of Kati, Rose and Tibor. Cremation at 11 am on Friday 11th April at West Norwood Crematorium. No flowers, but donations if desired, to Christopher Place, The Speech, Language and Hearing Centre, 3 Christopher Place, London NW1.

BICKERTON - Jack on March 27th, aged 88. Beloved husband of the late Judy, father of John and Nigel. Cremation private. Thanksgiving will be held in St Mary's Church Badby on April 4th at 12.30pm. Family flowers.

BON SENGER - Iris Monica (née Bradford) on March 29th 1997 at Umzumbe, Natal. Beloved wife of the late Dieter, dear mother of Mark, Richard, Adrian and Valda and much loved grandmother.

BOURNE - Suddenly on March 27th, 1997 in Worthing Hospital, Gerry Bourne. Much loved by his wife Iris and all his family. All enquiries to S.A. Dunford Funeral Service. Tel: Lancing 01903 753160.

BOWDEN - John, 1st January 1929 - 21st March 1997. Service Eltham Crematorium 2.15 pm 4th April 1997. Friends welcome.

BRIGGS - Robert Lionel, on 27th March, peacefully at Kendal. Husband of Winifred, father of Alison and Hugh, grandfather of Ben and Jemma, brother of Margaret, member of the Society of Friends and a lifelong worker for peace, justice and equality. The funeral will be held at Brigflatts Meeting House. All enquiries to Hayes and Parkinson Ltd, Captain French Lane, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4HS, Tel: 01539 720105.

DEVITT - On March 29th, peacefully in Budleigh Salterton after a long illness, bravely borne. Peter, in his 86th year. Wing Commander R.A.F. Retired. Sadly missed by his son Jeremy, daughters Lorna, Jacquetta & Gay and his many friends. Private family funeral, no flowers please, donations in lieu to the Royal Merchant Navy School, Bearwood, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berks.

HARWOOD - Giles Francis peacefully at St. Peter's Hospice, Bristol on 28th March 1997 aged 63. Deeply loved husband of Diana, much loved father of Monica, Bridget, Francis, Dominic and Nicholas and grandfather of seven. Requiem Mass on Friday 4th April at 11am at St. Teresa's, Filton, Bristol. No flowers. Donations if desired to St. Peter's Hospice c/o R. Davis & Son, 381 Gloucester Road, Bristol BS7 8TN. Tel: 0117 9424039.

JOHNSON peacefully on 26 March 1997. Major Peter Sutherland Johnson M.B.E., late Royal Artillery. Beloved husband of Bramble, father of Caroline and Amanda and grandfather. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary the Virgin, Frensham on Thursday April 17 at 2.30pm. If wished donations to Leonard Cheshire Foundation (Bells Piece) c/o Thorn Leggett, Whitehill, Bordon, GU35 9AR.

MARLOW - On 26th March, peacefully at home, Christopher John, aged 61. Beloved husband of Erika, dear father of Elizabeth, Robert and Joanna, grandfather of Clare and Ruth, brother of Richard, stepfather of Samantha, Helen and Dale. Wonderful friend to many. Funeral at 10 am on 4th April, at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead. Family flowers only. Donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

MOSS - On March 28th, suddenly, John Edward in his 83rd year. Beloved husband of Elaine, adored father of Valerie and Alison and loving "Papa" of Alexandra and Georgina. Funeral Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane on Wednesday 2nd April at 3.30. No flowers, but donations if desired to Nightingale House, Nightingale Lane, SW12.

POLLOCK - Ellen. See Proudfoot.

PROUDFOOT - Ellen Clara peacefully on March 29th 1997 at Denville Hall, Northwood in her 96th year. Dearly beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium on Wednesday April 9th at 12 noon. Flowers, or donations for Denville Hall c/o Bradley & Jones, 7 Love Lane, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 3EE. Tel: 0181 866 0068.

RODGER - (Bill) William R.T. peacefully in hospital on 26th March. Much loved husband of Betty. Funeral Service at West London Crematorium on Friday 4th April at 11.00am. Flowers and enquiries to J.H. Kenyon Funeral Directors, 83 Westbourne Grove, London W2. Tel: 0171 229 3810.

SMOLLETT - of Bonhill, Patrick Telfer Smollett, M.C. on 27th March 1997 at Cameron Farm, Loch Lomond, in his 83rd year. Beloved husband of Gina and father of David and of Gabrielle Boyle. Funeral at St. Mungos, Alexandria, Dunbartonshire at noon on Friday 4th April 1997.

SOUTHALL - James Rae of Great Ayton on March 28th. Beloved husband of Prue, father of Michael, Ian, Philip and Andrew and grandfather of five. Service at Christ Church, Great Ayton on Friday April 4th at 2.15pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, to Cleveland Alzheimers Residential Centre, Kirkdale, Radcliffe Crescent, Thornaby TS17 6BS.

STEWART - Doctor John Gough Stewart (Skipper), General Practitioner formerly of Knightsbridge, born Casino, New South Wales 1900. Died peacefully Ballina General Hospital, County Mayo 28th March, 1997 aged 96. Husband of Josephine and of the late Alma, father and father-in-law of Janet and David Pyke, grandfather of Adrian, Caroline and Janey and great grandfather of five. Funeral private.

SERVICES

[illegible] National Dating Agency. [illegible] 01882 712909.

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LEGAL NOTICES

The Insolvency Act 1986
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
NUMBER 005928 OF 1996
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In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, I, Duncan Robert Beat of Morison Stoneham, Moulsham House, 75 Springfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex, give notice that I was appointed Liquidator of the above on 26 February 1997. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 137 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that it is not my intention to call a meeting of creditors in order to establish a committee of creditors. However, I will summon such a meeting if I am requested, in accordance with the rules, to do so by one-tenth, in value, of the company's creditors.
Dated 25 March 1997
Duncan Robert Beat, Liquidator.

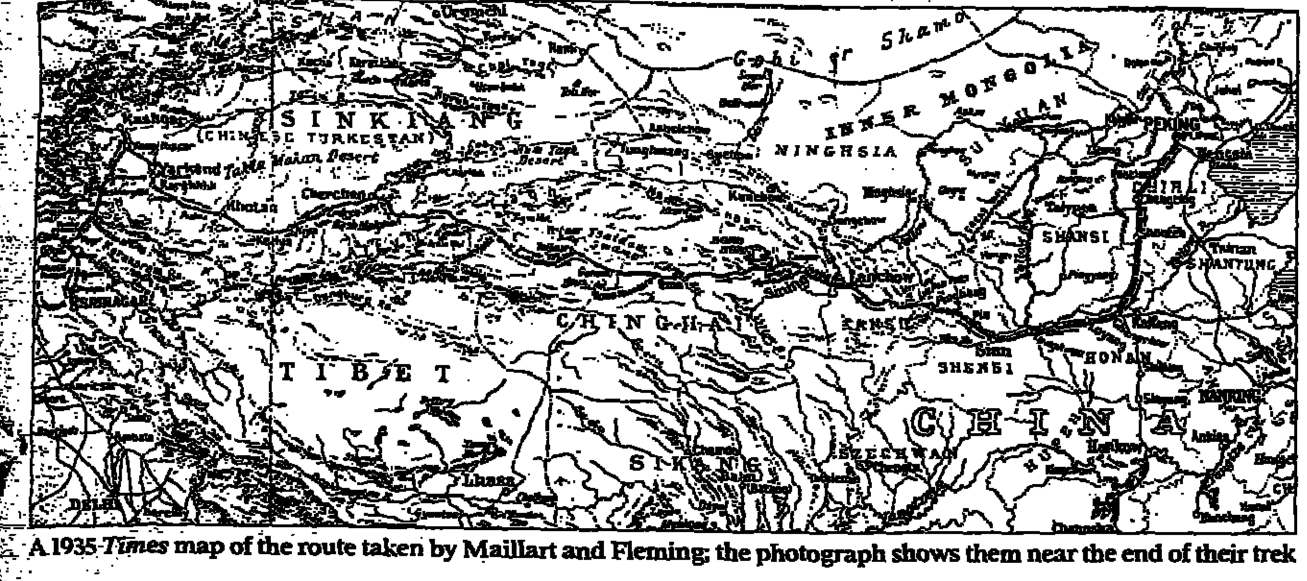
RULE 11.2(1), (2) & (3)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF FIRST & FINAL DIVIDEND
Compressed Air Supply & Services (London) Limited (IN LIQUIDATION)
OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with the provisions of Rule 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that a first and final dividend will be paid within a period of four months from the last date of proving. The last date for creditors to prove claims in this liquidation is 28th April 1997.

Creditors of the above named Company should send their addresses, descriptions and full particulars of their debt or claims K.P. Barry, FCA Leonard Curtis & Co PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF. Under Rule 11.3(2) a Liquidator is not obliged to deal with claims lodged after the date of proving. DATED THIS 24th day of March 1997
K. P. BARRY
Liquidator.

هدية من الاهرام

ELLA MAILLART



A 1935 *Times* map of the route taken by Maillart and Fleming; the photograph shows them near the end of their trek

Ella Maillart, traveller, died at her home in Chandolin, Switzerland, on March 27 aged 94. She was born in Geneva on February 20, 1903.

Ella Maillart lived, with great zest, a rather vagabond life. An indefatigable traveller, author and photographer, she came, inevitably, to be regarded as something of a Swiss counterpart to Freya Stark. Although without the latter's educational and social advantages, not to mention her natural flair as a writer, she possessed a similar determination to see for herself how other countries and their populations lived and thought. During her journeys from the 1920s onwards, mainly in Asia and mostly made alone, sometimes on horseback or on foot, she rejoiced at finding places with "people happy, not yet corrupted by money".

In 1935, as a special correspondent for *Le Petit Parisien*, she joined forces with Peter Fleming, brother of Ian Fleming and special correspondent of *The Times*, in a trip that took them along the Silk Road into Chinese Turkestan, then the object of Russian attentions. On the advice of a Swedish archaeologist, Eric Nöring, who had been forced to flee the area, they avoided frontier posts by following a route which took them, on foot or on ponies, via northern Tibet through inhospitable desert and high mountains. For months neither their papers nor their families knew where they were.

Fleming gave a vivid account of the experience in a long series of articles in *The Times* under the title *Hidden Asia*. Maillart's own recollections of the 3,500-mile trip over intimidating terrain followed in her book *Forbidden Journey: From Peking to Kashmir*. Both authors modestly played down the rigours of their trek, Fleming wryly describing it as "an escapade rather than an exploit" and "an undeservedly successful experiment in travelling light".

Three years earlier, also without a visa and travelling alone, Maillart had gone to Soviet Turkestan, then in the throes of attempts at "westernisation". On being asked — as she frequently was — how she came to be travelling unaccompanied, her customary reply was "I'm on my way to join my husband." (She never married.) Crossing Kirghiz territory she reached Tien Shan with its "Celestial Mountains", describing the experience in a book which was published in German as well as French and English.

With a mother partly Danish and multilingual, who had been sent as a girl to learn French near Montreux, and a father with many years spent in Britain, Ella Maillart grew up bilingual, and an avid reader. Depending on the publisher, her books were written in English or French; living frugally for many years, always planning and saving for the next trip, she would on occasion welcome payment for doing the subsequent translation herself.

She was ten when introduced by her father to skiing, at which she excelled. Not long afterwards the family moved from central Geneva to lakeside Creux-de-Genthod with its small-boat harbour. The mountains and sailing became lifelong passions, the latter taking her from Swiss lakes to the Channel and to the Mediterranean. By the age of 20 she was recognised as a competent yacht crew member and navigator. Seven years of this provided material for *Vagabond of the Seas*.

After that came Berlin, where she was particularly hard up and frequently on a diet of porridge to save money, giving English lessons and trying to learn Russian in talking to the many refugees who were driving cabs.

She moved on to Moscow, borrowing the money for the fare from the author Jack London and his wife. For five months she stayed at an eight-room apartment, home of Countess Tolstoy but now accommodating an additional five families, before crossing the Caucasus on foot with a party of Russians. A book, *Among Young Russians*, followed; with it she began to become established as a writer, though she herself always claimed to find writing a chore and described her work as essentially testimony rather than literature.

Other books dealt with Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan. And by now she was also sufficiently proficient with a cine camera to make documentaries.

She was in India for most of the Second World War, having reached it via Afghanistan by car in 1939, a journey she later described in *The Cruel Way*. In India, having at first been wrongly suspected of being a spy, she travelled and visited ashrams to hear what the various gurus had to say. On going to interview Nehru, she was much surprised to see him emerge from his office brandishing her visiting card and extending his arms in welcome with the words "So you are *the* Ella Maillart?" Her books on India were published first in London, well before they appeared in French.

In the end she returned to settle in Switzerland, though, with restless energy, she continued until around 80 to lead parties on lecture tours to some of her best-loved lands. She was an admirable and endearing lecturer, and her audience never minded if she overran, as she invariably did. More recently she went for the first time to see something of the South Pacific, long her "dream ocean".

She lived out her last years in her mountain retreat, the chalèt at Chandolin (1,936 metres), one of the highest villages in the Alps. While detesting cities with their concrete and cement and traffic pollution, she had generally been persuaded to come down to Geneva for the worst of the winter. But this year she remained at Chandolin, the place where she had found "this profound peace".

EDWARD PURCELL

Edward Purcell, American Nobel Laureate in Physics, died on March 7 aged 84. He was born on August 30, 1912.

FOR his work on nuclear magnetic resonance Edward Purcell shared the 1952 Nobel Prize in Physics with Felix Bloch of Stanford University. His research made possible new insights into chemical structures, and led to the development of imaging techniques which have brought far-reaching benefits in fields ranging from radio astronomy to medical diagnosis.

In his speech accepting the prize Purcell spoke of his pleasure in a discovery that made possible a new way of looking at the universe, enabling the world to be seen "for a moment as something rich and strange".

Edward Mills Purcell was born in Taylorville, Illinois. He won a scholarship to Purdue University, Illinois, where he studied electrical engineering, graduating in 1933.

Purcell's gift for mathematics and physics was quickly recognised by his physics professor, K. Lark-Horowitz, who invited him to take part in a research project on electron diffraction while he was still an undergraduate. Lark-Horowitz then recommended him for an exchange studentship in Germany, and he spent a year studying physics at the Technische Hochschule in Karlsruhe under Professor Weizel.

On his return to the United States Purcell moved to Harvard University, where his first publication was a theoretical paper with Malcolm Hebb on the properties of paramagnetic salts, widely used in low temperature physics. This was part of his research for a PhD while a student with J.H. Van Vleck, himself later a Nobel Laureate in Physics. Purcell was awarded his doctorate in 1938.

After the Americans entered the Second World War, Purcell joined the radiation laboratory at the Massachussetts Institute of Technology. By 1943 he was in charge of a section there dealing with microwave radar. His research at this time was to be of benefit in his subsequent work on the detection of atomic magnetism.

In 1945 Purcell returned to Harvard, where he had been an instructor in physics from 1938 to 1940, as an associate professor. In 1948 he became associate editor of the leading theoretical journal, *Physical Review*, and in 1949 was appointed to a full professorship in physics at Harvard.

He held his chair until retirement in 1960, and was the Senior Fellow of the Society of Fellows at Harvard University from 1950 to 1971.

Working with R.V. Pound and H.C. Torrey, Purcell observed nuclear magnetic resonance on December 15, 1945. They announced their observation simultaneously with that of nuclear induction by Felix Bloch and others at Stanford University. Purcell and Bloch received the joint award of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1952.

Purcell's research on radar also fuelled his interest in radio astronomy, and his detection of radiation from interstellar space at the hydrogen hyperfine frequency of 1421 MHz was another experiment worthy of a Nobel Prize; his research was of enormous value to radio astronomers attempting to map galaxies.

More speculatively, Purcell was always intrigued by the possibility of radio communication with other civilisations, if they existed, and by the question of what frequency the aliens might use; he was dismissive of space travel, however.

Purcell gave the Halley Lecture in Oxford in 1983, and was elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Society in 1989. He received honorary doctorates from Purdue University and Washington University in St Louis, and a National Medal of Science in 1979. He was the author of standard works on microwaves, electricity and magnetism.

Purcell died after a fall at his home in Cambridge Massachussetts. He is survived by his wife Beth (nee Busser), and by their two sons.

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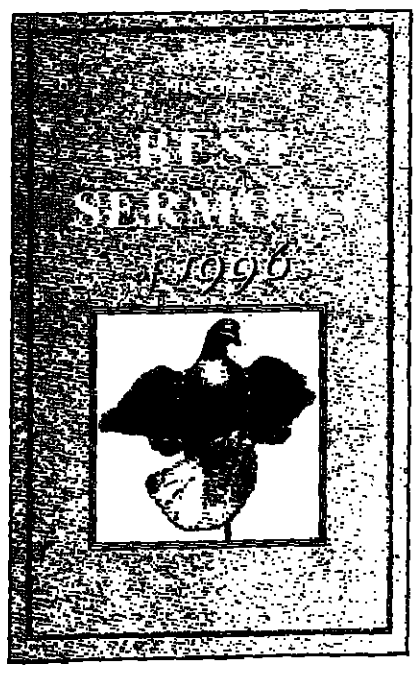

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FRITZ SPIELMANN

Fritz Spielmann, *composer, died on March 21 aged 90.* He was born in Vienna on November 20, 1906.

FRITZ SPIELMANN was one of Austria's most successful musical exports to the United States. Like other Austrian Jews in the late 1930s, his hasty arrival in New York was hardly a matter of choice. But the roots he quickly put down on Broadway and in Hollywood lasted a lifetime and meant that he never returned to Europe. His hummable melodies, recorded by Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland and Marie Osmond, became perennial favourites with British and American audiences.

Spielmann's birthplace, Vienna, buzzed with cabarets and musical bars before the war. His father, an electrical engineer, encouraged Fritz to play the piano. Composition came easily to him, and one of his childhood efforts, *One Finger Melody*, became a big hit when recorded by Frank Sinatra in 1950. At 12, the precocious Spielmann was studying piano and composition under Joseph Marx at the Music Academy of Vienna.

When he left, his planned career as a concert pianist had to be sacrificed to the urgent need to make a living. He started playing the piano in nightclubs, sometimes his own compositions, sometimes George Gershwin's. Popular songs in Vienna in those days tended, in their grim humour, to reflect the prevailing economic and political instability. Spielmann's best-known contribution to this genre of composition was entitled *Warum spielt bei den Schinkenfleckerl allerweil das Fleisch Versteckerl?* — which roughly translates as "Why does the meat in the noodle casserole play hide and seek?".

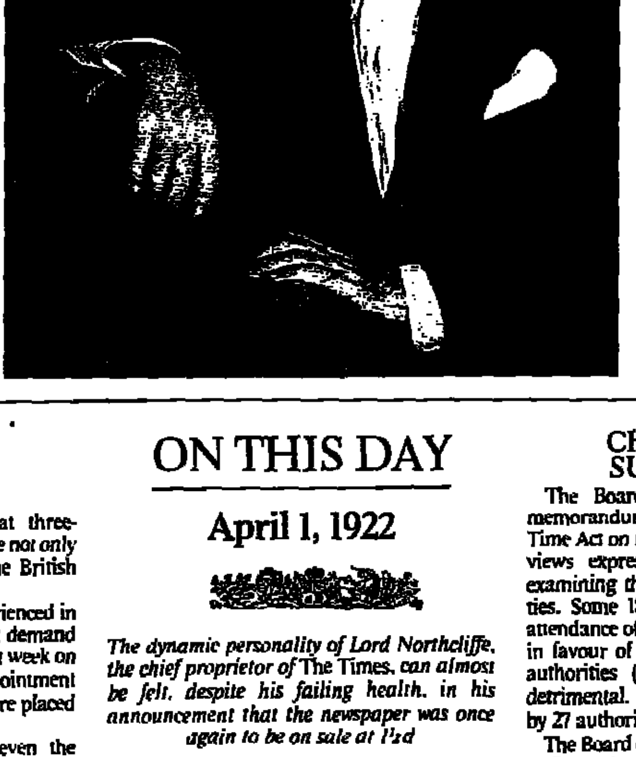
After the *Anschluss*, Spielmann thought it wise to leave Austria. He escaped to Paris, where he obtained a French passport. With war looming, he left on one of the last ships, the *Reina de Pacifico*, for Cuba.

There he married his fiancée Mary, and they made their way to the Upper West Side of New York City, which was teeming with German immigrants. His swiftness at learning English meant that he was able to pick up the threads of his career much more quickly than other talented émigré composers.

By the early 1940s Spielmann, now calling himself Fred, was established. Bing Crosby recorded his *Shepherd Serenade* in 1941 and the show *The Lady Says Yes* was performed on Broadway three hundred times.

Hollywood, and in particular MGM, beckoned, and in 1944 he left for the West Coast. His first film, *Abilene Town* (1946) was proclaimed by critics to be the best musical Western since *Oklahoma!*

Billy Wilder, who had known Spielmann in their shared Vienna days, smoothed his path wherever possible. Working with various lyricists, Spielmann wrote songs for *Luxury Liner* and *Big City* (both 1948), *In the Good Old Summertime*, which starred Judy Garland (1949) and, a decade later, for Elvis Presley in the light-headed *Girls! Girls! Girls!* (1962).



In the early 1950s his wife died and Spielmann returned to New York. With no children, he kept busy by composing. He returned to Vienna for the first time in 1970, and his old Austrian hits were played on radio shows as a tribute. But he resisted the idea of staying — "New York had become my home."

Back in New York in 1973, he had the satisfaction of seeing Marie Osmond make a monster success out of his *Paper Roses*, a country and western standard which had first been recorded back in 1960 in three different versions by Anita Bryant, Maureen Evans and the Kaye Sisters. In 1978 he had another hit show on Broadway with *The Stingiest Man in Town*, starring Walter Matthau in the role of Scrooge. An animated film was made of the musical.

His last hit came in 1990 when the jazz singer Shirley Horn recorded *You Won't Forget Me*, and topped the American charts. Like many of the 900 songs that Spielmann had composed, this had been produced for a film made forty years previously and had lain unnoticed ever since. Spielmann was curious to know how Horn had ever heard of it. "She told me that she loved watching old movies at two in the morning, and that's when it caught her attention."

Interviewed by the Austrian Cultural Institute in New York two years ago, Spielmann expressed his hope that he would, as Verdi had done with *Falstaff* at a similarly great age, produce one last masterpiece. That never happened. But under the current renaissance in "easy listening" tunes, the Spielmann archive may yet prove to be a goldmine for singers.

ON THIS DAY

April 1, 1922

The dynamic personality of Lord Northcliffe, the chief proprietor of The Times, *can almost be felt, despite his failing health, in his announcement that the newspaper was once again to be on sale at 1½d*

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Readers in their own interests, however, are still urged to register, because they will then be entitled to privileges which are not open to unregistered purchasers.

One of the advantages reserved for them will be that they will receive free of charge in future certain famous supplements issued with *The Times* at intervals throughout the year.

As an example of what will be included among supplements that will be provided free to registered readers, we would mention the beautiful Princess Mary Supplement in colour and photogravure, produced at very great cost on the day of the Royal wedding.

Registered readers can also telephone their urgent small advertisements to *The Times* Office. All that is necessary on the part of a reader to secure the privileges is to fill in the forms [printed in the paper].

The reduction in price will not involve any variation in the quality of the News Services of *The Times*. On the contrary, as a result of Lord Northcliffe's world tour, many new correspondents have been appointed in places in which hitherto no journal has ever been directly represented.

CHILDREN AND SUMMER-TIME.

The Board of Education has issued a memorandum on the effect of the Summer Time Act on the health of school children. The views expressed have been reached after examining the opinions of 299 local authorities. Some 183 authorities, with an average attendance of 3,227,842 children, are definitely in favour of the Act. On the other hand, 80 authorities (1,600,429 children) consider it detrimental. No definite opinion was formed by 27 authorities (232,402 children) . . .

The Board draws the following conclusion:—

"The only disadvantage to children which in their opinion can be accepted as really following from the adoption of the Summer Time Act is that the Act may, and under present conditions often does, cause some aggravation of a really serious evil — namely, the widespread and injurious lack of sufficient sleep amongst school children. The Board are of opinion that this aggravation is relatively slight and can be usually avoided by reasonable domestic care. They would urge local education authorities and teachers to co-operate in trying by every possible means to enlist the intelligent sympathy of parents in securing for their children this indispensable element in healthy child life."

THE TIMES TODAY

Major gives new sleaze warning

■ John Major issued a new warning to Neil Hamilton and other MPs involved in sleaze allegations that he will back their expulsion from Parliament and the Conservative Party if charges against them are upheld.

However, the Prime Minister, in a letter to all constituency party chairmen, made clear that he would accept their choice of general election candidate — even when there were unresolved questions hanging over them .... **Pages 1,2**

America's poorest suffer aid cuts

■ Panic has seized American immigration and welfare offices as tough Republican-backed welfare reforms signed by President Clinton in August take effect, denying government support to hundreds of thousands of people including legal immigrants and single, fit childless adults .... **Page 1**

Sunny Easter

Britain enjoyed the warmest Easter since 1989 this year, and in many areas the sunniest since the Second World War — a climax to the third warmest March since records began in 1659 .... **Page 1**

End of the line

Hundreds of rail enthusiasts converged on stations in Edinburgh and Glasgow clutching souvenir tickets and glasses of free champagne to mark the last public-sector train journeys .... **Page 1**

Scouts tragedy

A Scout leader who survived a rock fall that killed two companions said that they were relaxing by a camp fire when a sandstone ledge collapsed .... **Page 3**

£1 mansion

One of the finest Elizabethan houses in Wales was sold for £1. Rather larger is a £250,000 tag to move a nearby pig-breeding unit .... **Page 5**

£3bn in plate

The Church of England's assets have soared to a record £3 billion after Church Commissioners recovered their Eighties' property-speculation losses .... **Page 6**

Squadron honoured

The RAF's 273 Squadron, which played a crucial role in Japan's defeat in the Second World War, has achieved official recognition more than fifty years after being disbanded .... **Page 8**

Franco secret

General Franco gave refuge to more than a hundred active German Nazis at the Second World War's end, providing many with new identities, a classified Allied document shows .... **Page 9**

Nato choice

President Clinton has chosen Wesley Clark, an army general who, like him, grew up in Arkansas and attended Oxford, to be the next military commander of Nato and head of US forces in Europe .... **Page 10**

Cash for support

India's 13-party coalition government must seek a vote of confidence, provoking a period of "suitcase politics" — the illegal *handing of bags of money to MPs* in return for support .... **Page 11**

Boycott derided

Israel ridiculed the Arab League's call to reimpose an economic boycott on the Jewish state, accusing the Arabs of scheming to topple Binyamin Netanyahu's right-wing Government .... **Page 11**

Ailing island

St Helena, best known as the final exile of Napoleon, may sink into oblivion and despair without outside investment .... **Page 12**

Rebels roll on

Zairean rebels look set to roll unopposed into the country's economic heartland after capturing a rail centre .... **Page 12**

Swampy sets sights on Westminster

■ Swampy — alias Daniel Hooper — abseiled from his tunnel entrance 50ft up an embankment on the site of Manchester Airport's planned second runway to unveil his "Don't Fly, Don't Drive" election manifesto. The protester aims to contest the Labour stronghold of Blackley, in north Manchester, for the Never Mind the Ballots Party .... **Page 1**

ROBIN MAYES

Erica Brunoehler, aged six, enjoys some of the 250,000 daffodils planted in Green Park to mark the Queen's fiftieth wedding anniversary in November. London children planted another 300 bulbs at Buckingham Palace beneath her private apartments

Sent off: The Bank of England's Governor has stopped his chief economist becoming a non-executive director of Aston Villa Football Club, which may affect £140 million flotation plans .... **Page 44**

Apocalypse Dow: Share prices tumbled further on Wall Street prompting fears of a collapse in *London this morning*. The Dow Jones *lost more than 100 points in* early trading .... **Page 44**

TV venture delay: The $500 million link-up between the BBC and the US's Discovery Communications has hit obstacles expected delay new channels .... **Page 44**

Tesco card: Tesco is launching a credit card and applying for a bank licence in a venture with the Royal Bank of Scotland .... **Page 41**

Football: Bolton Wanderers still await promotion from the Nationwide League after Wolverhampton Wanderers came back to draw at Queens Park Rangers .... **Page 23**

Cricket: West Indies won the third Test in Bridgetown after dismissing India for 81 to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series. Franklyn Rose took 7 for 96 .... **Page 23**

Racing: Jenny Pitman has completed a clean sweep of grand national wins after Mudahim's victory in the Irish race at Fairyhouse .... **Page 29**

Rugby league: Alex Murphy, temporary coach at Warrington, saw his new charges crush his former side, Wigan, 35-24 in the Stones Super League .... **Page 26**

Death and maidens: Richard Cork on a Brussels retrospective of the surrealist, sleeping Venus paintings of Paul Delvaux .... **Page 16**

Classical choice: Bach's *St John Passion* has had all manner of treatments, but there is a clear winner in our guide to building a library .... **Page 16**

Manic masters: Far from retreating after the disappearance of Richey Edwards, the Manic Street Preachers came out fighting. Nick Kelly sees them live and kicking in Dublin .... **Page 17**

Passion players: Easter provides the spiritual setting for a feast of fine music. Barry Millington reviews the Gabrieli Consort's version of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* .... **Page 17**

Divided families: Catherine Laylle's sons were abducted by their father but German courts granted him custody. Now, Bill Frost reports, she is campaigning to change international laws to protect parents like her .... **Page 13**

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The Backroom Kids: Baby spin doctors, infant admen and advisers in short trousers. Michael Gove on how the next century's political stars are already telling Cabinet ministers what to do... **Pages 14, 15**

Full disclosure: Will the new rules on police disclosure of evidence make life easier for lawyers? Roger Ede has his doubts .... **Page 33**

Nato's expansion eastward will sandwich waffling (former Soviet) republics between the alliance and Russia, and force them to choose their allegiances sooner rather than later. If the Kremlin really wants to preserve its influence over former Soviet space, it should take urgent steps to speed up integration between Commonwealth of Independent States countries and make sure that promising concepts materialise instead of remaining on paper — *Moscow Tribune*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ INTERFACE

A major survey talks you through the maze of telecom offers that confuse consumers

■ HOMES

Dreaming of a pastoral utopia: *Country Life's* property pages are a century old this week

Preview: How women with children cope in jail. *Witness* (Channel 4, 9pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss is hooked on *Pet Rescue* .... **Page 43**

Silence over Europe

If Tony Blair really believes that constructive engagement is a possibility for Britain in Europe, then he should start talking about it now. To what end will he use this engagement? .... **Page 19**

Shameful isolation

The Cairo communiqué has signalled that many Arab states regard the peace process solely as a forum for the capitulation of the Israeli Government to their demands .... **Page 19**

The last train

BR, that much mocked transport conglomorate, somehow by the end of its troubled life, found a way into the nation's heart .... **Page 19**

PETER RIDDELL

I am not sure Tony Blair's advisers realise how, in practice, it will be impossible for him, or Gordon Brown, to have control over every policy announcement, as now. Secretaries of State have to be given some freedom of manoeuvre, or government will clog up ..... **Page 2**

LIBBY PURVES

Our education system is increasingly based on a worship of tension and anxiety (what else are tests and tables?), and on a synchronised striving for an arid, tightly defined status quo. Did we want it to be like this? .... **Page 18**

ISABEL CARLISLE

Caricature is as ephemeral as the individuals whom it exaggerates to deflate. Satire, which addresses the broader picture of human types and failings, endures — one reason for Hogarth's ability to communicate across the centuries.... **Page 18**

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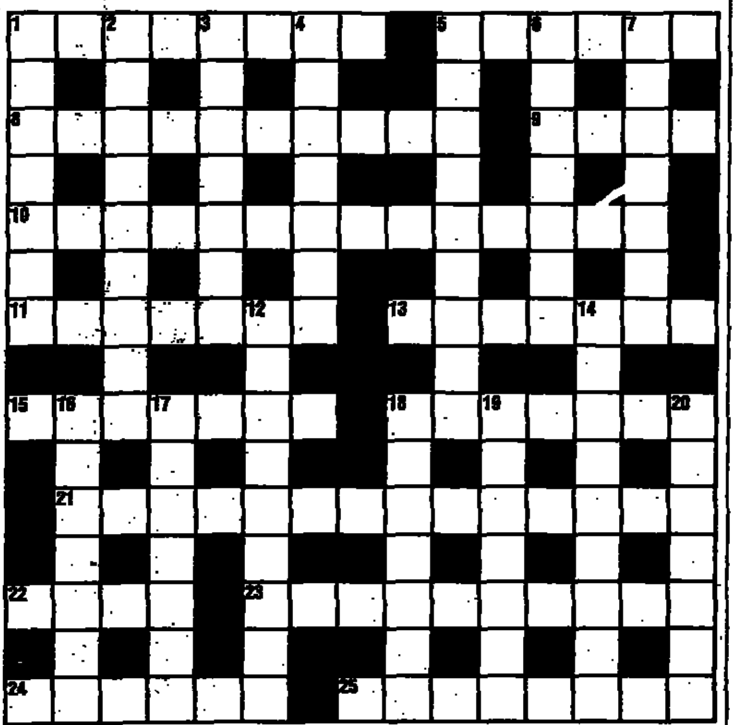

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1 Extremely strong players joining club (4-4).
5 Language Miss Languish has a name for (6).
8 Mentor used in new form with great effect (10).
9 Country without any potential for growth (4).
10 Pacific colony founded by Christian's followers (8,6).
11 As result of that, beer is brewed, within reason (7).
13 Cider girl put in empty car for crook (7).
15 American colonel's headless bust held in safekeeping (7).
18 Get Lawrence initially in to testify in Jersey or Guernsey (7).
21 Romantic type drove one mad one way (14).
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23 The band toiled in order to get this instrument (10).
24 American medic is home bird (6).
25 Hungry, so ensure it is cooked (8).

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1 Tool able to retract nails (4-3).
2 Not so excited, we hear, so not humming at all (9).
3 Go over one gallery visited by monarch (7).
4 Businesslike foreign article found in European airport (7).
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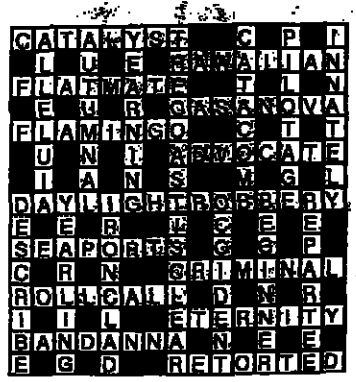
6 Produce greetings from Australia in hot spell (3,4).
7 A place for director to order cut (7).
12 Game in which China isn't good? (9).
14 There is no reason to be so spontaneous (9).
16 Exotic character mounted on wild lions (7).
17 Reasonable opponents at bridge found within playing area (7).
18 Like waves in Serpentine (7).
19 Misuse our name to cast a spell (7).
20 Sounded call for seclusion (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,441



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Yesterday: Highest day temp: Gravesend, Kent, and London Weather Centre, 17C (63F); lowest day max: Spadeadam, Cumbria, 8C (46F); highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, Highland, 0.08in; highest sunshine: Clacton, Essex, 11.9hr.

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Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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☐ **General:** England and Wales will be mostly dry. Overnight mist or fog should clear in the morning, but will linger on the South Coast. Most places will have long sunny spells, but the west and north-west will have rather more cloud. It will be warm, after local frost overnight, with light winds.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a cloudy start with rain or drizzle, mainly in the west. Drier weather will spread from the north-west, leaving a few showers in the west. The east should turn brighter. Windy in the north.

☐ **London, E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N England:** overnight mist or fog clearing, then long sunny spells. Winds light, southwesterly. Warm. Max temp 17C (63F).

☐ **S E England, Central S England, Channel Isles, S W England:** overnight mist mostly clearing, but lingering on coast. Wind light and variable. Warm inland. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **S Wales, N Wales, N W England, Lake District, N E England:** dry at first, becoming cloudy with occasional drizzle on western coasts and hills. Wind southwesterly, moderate. Max 11C-13C (52F-55F).

☐ **Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, S W Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth:** becoming cloudy with occasional light rain. Wind southwesterly, moderate to fresh. Max 10C-12C (50F-54F).

☐ **N E Scotland, Argyll, N W Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland:** cloudy at first with occasional rain or drizzle, brighter later with a few showers. Wind southwesterly, fresh or strong, locally gale at times. Max 9C-12C (48F-54F).

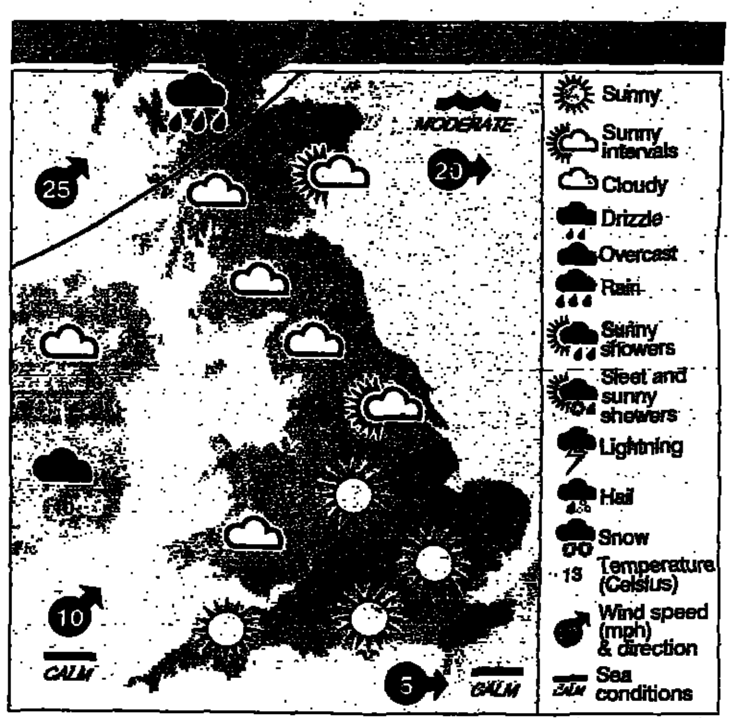
☐ **Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday:** a band of rain edging south, becoming light and patchy.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

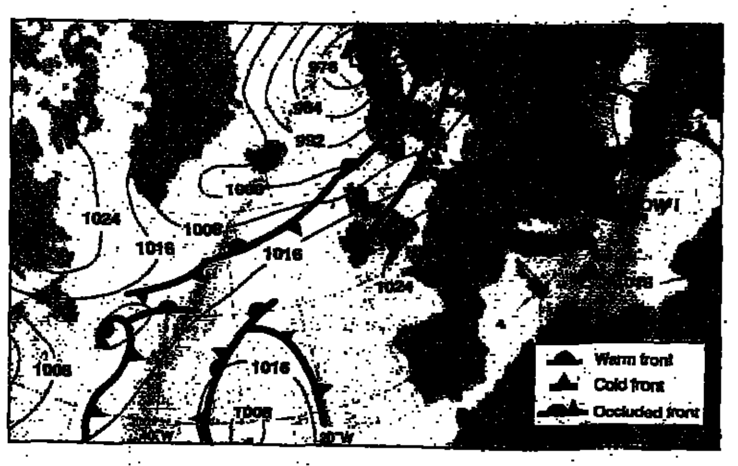
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	7.2	0.01	16	61	s
Anglesey	7.6	-	11	52	s
Aspatria	2.7	-	10	50	b
Aviemore	0.7	-	11	52	c
Belfast	4.8	-	13	55	s
Birmingham	10.5	-	17	63	s
Bognor R	10.7	-	13	55	s
Bournem'th	8.8	-	11	52	s
Bristol	10.7	-	16	61	s
Buxton	10.8	-	13	55	s
Cardiff	10.7	-	14	57	s
Clacton	11.9	-	11	52	s
Cleethorpes	X				
Colwyn Bay	10.4	-	15	59	s
Cromer	10.7	-	16	61	s
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	10.4	-	12	54	s
Edinburgh	1.0	-	13	55	c
Eskdalemuir	5.3	-	11	52	s
Exmouth	5.9	-	10	50	s
Falmouth	10.9	-	13	55	s
Fishguard	9.3	-	12	54	s
Folkestone	11.7	-	13	55	s
Guernsey	11.0	-	16	61	s
Hastings	11.6	-	12	54	s
Hayling I.	8.7	0.01	11	52	s
Herne Bay	11.0	-	15	59	s
Hunstanton	X	-	15	59	s
Isle of Man	8.1	-	11	52	s
Jersey	11.4	-	16	61	s
Kinloss	0.7	0.01	12	54	c
Leeds	11.5	-	14	57	s
Lerwick	0.2	0.01	9	48	g
Leuchars	6.3	-	13	55	b
Littlehmptn	8.8	0.01	13	55	s
London	11.6	-	17	63	s
Lowestoft	10.6	-	16	61	s
Manchester	11.2	-	14	57	s
Margate	11.3	-	16	61	s
Minehead	10.2	-	14	57	s
Morecambe	-	-	9	48	du
Newcastle	11.5	-	13	55	s
Newquay	11.3	-	15	59	s
Norwich	10.9	-	16	61	s
Oxford	11.2	-	16	61	s
Penzance	X	-	14	57	s
Poole	6.2	0.01	15	59	s
Prestatyn	X	-	13	55	s
Ross-o-wye	11.3	-	17	63	s
Salcombe	10.0	-	13	55	s
Sandown	5.4	-	11	52	fg
Saunton Snd	11.3	-	16	61	s
Scarboro'	10.5	0.01	12	54	s
Shanklin	X	-	12	54	s
Shrewsbury	10.2	-	15	59	s
Skegness	11.1	-	16	61	s
Southport	7.1	-	11	52	s
Southsea	9.4	-	11	52	s
Stornoway	0.1	0.02	11	52	r
Swanage	6.9	-	12	54	s
Teignmouth	3.0	-	10	50	du
Tenby	10.1	-	11	52	s
Tiree	2.7	0.01	11	52	r
Torquay	5.4	-	12	54	s
Tynemouth	-	-	13	55	s
Ventnor	11.5	-	11	52	s
West-s-mare	11.0	-	15	59	s
Weymouth	5.5	-	9	48	b

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	17	63		Corfu	11	52	f	Majorca	13	55	c	Rome	15	59	f
Akrotiri	19	66	s	C'phagn	9	48	c	Malaga	19	66	f	S Fr'sco	14	57	s
Alex'dria	23	73	s	Dublin	9	48	c	Malta	15	59	s	S Paulo	21	70	c
Algiers	18	64	s	Dubrovnik	9	48	c	Melb'rne	18	64	c	Salzburg	3	37	c
Amst'dm	11	52	s	Faro	20	68	s	Mexico C	X			Santiago	27	81	s
Athens	17	63	f	Florence	X			Miami	29	84	s	Seoul	6	43	s
B Aires	32	90	s	Frankfurt	10	50	c	Milan	20	68	s	Sing'por	32	90	f
Bahrain	19	66	s	Funchal	19	66	f	Montreal	3	37	f	St'kholm	8	46	s
Bangkok	34	93	f	Geneva	10	50	s	Moscow	0	32	c	Strasb'rg	9	48	r
Barbados	X			Gibraltar	19	66	f	Munich	3	37	sn	Sydney	21	70	f
Barcelona	15	59	s	Helsinki	5	41	f	N Delhi	26	79	f	Tangier	19	66	s
Beirut	17	63	s	Hong K	25	77	s	N York	16	61	s	Tel Aviv	19	66	s
Belgrade	11	52	f	Innsbrck	4	39	c	Nairobi	17	63	t	Tenerife	23	73	s
Berlin	9	48	s	Istanbul	15	59	f	Naples	11	52	f	Tokyo	23	73	s
Bermuda	20	68	c	Jeddah	27	81	s	Nice	17	63	s	Toronto	2	36	d
Biarritz	15	59	s	Jo'burg	19	66	f	Oslo	6	43	f	Tunis	18	64	c
Borde'x	15	59	s	L Angels	16	61	f	Paris	13	55	c	Valencia	19	66	f
Brussels	12	54	f	L Palmas	19	66	d	Peking	12	54	s	Vanc'ver	10	50	s
Budapst	9	48	f	Le Touqet	11	52	f	Perth	23	73	s	Venice	13	55	s
Cairo	24	75	s	Lisbon	21	70	s	Prague	5	41	c	Vienna	7	45	c
Cape Tn	22	72	s	Locarno	16	61	s	Reykjavik	4	39	s	Warsaw	8	46	f
Ch'church	18	64	x	Luxembg	10	50	c	Rhodes	18	64	f	Wash'ton	20	68	f
Chicago	4	39	f	Luxor	27	81	s	Rio de J	25	77	f	Wel'ngton	17	63	x
Cologne	11	52	c	Madrid	19	66	s	Riyadh	22	72	s	Zurich	7	45	c

Temperatures at midday local time yesterday. X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: high A declines in situ; low C stays stationary over northern Scandinavia and slowly fills; low I drifts south and fills



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	07.55	6.2	20.22	6.0	Leith	09.08	4.5	21.51	4.5
Aberdeen	07.51	3.5	20.45	3.5	Liverpool	05.24	7.8	18.05	7.6
Avonmouth	00.47	10.6	13.24	10.4	Lowestoft	03.55	2.1	16.14	2.1
Belfast	05.19	3.0	18.11	3.0	Margate	06.05	4.1	18.42	4.0
Cardiff	00.33	9.9	13.10	9.7	Milford Haven	00.08	5.8	12.41	5.4
Devonport	11.45	4.5	-	-	Newquay	11.41	5.5	-	-
Dover	05.06	6.7	17.48	5.6	Oban	-	-	12.07	2.8
Dublin (N Wall)	06.14	3.4	19.12	3.5	Penzance	11.06	4.4	23.53	4.5
Falmouth	11.16	4.3	23.55	4.3	Portland	00.31	1.5	13.12	1.3
Greenock	06.38	2.9	19.09	2.8	Portsmouth	05.34	4.0	18.24	3.9
Harwich	05.59	3.4	18.29	3.3	Shoreham	05.11	5.0	17.59	5.0
Holyhead	04.39	4.8	17.27	4.5	Southampton	04.51	3.8	17.35	3.8
Hull (Albert D)	00.12	7.4	12.40	7.3	Swansea	00.20	7.7	13.03	7.5
Ilfracombe	-	-	12.23	7.2	Tees	10.21	4.4	23.09	4.4
King's Lynn	00.12	5.3	12.44	5.2	Walton-on-N	05.57	3.6	18.26	3.4

All times GMT. Hights in metres.

Sun rises: 6.36 am
Sun sets: 7.34 pm
Moon sets: 12.14 pm
Moon rises: 3.40 am
Last quarter today

London 7.34 pm to 6.34 am
Bristol 7.44 pm to 6.44 am
Edinburgh 7.51 pm to 6.41 am
Manchester 7.44 pm to 6.40 am
Penzance 7.54 pm to 6.57 am

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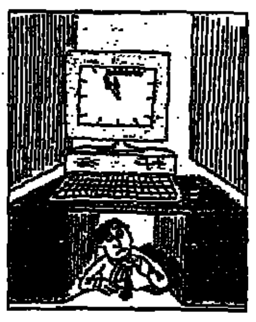

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TUESDAY APRIL 1 1997

McGhee's tactical switch delays promotion celebrations for league leaders

Wolves keep Bolton in suspense

Queens Park Rangers ... 2
Wolverhampton W'drs ... 2

By Oliver Holt
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

BOLTON Wanderers were left bound to the Nationwide League first division by the most slender of threads last night. Wolverhampton Wanderers, the team that could have confirmed the club's swift return to the FA Carling Premiership by losing yesterday at Loftus Road, delayed the celebrations by fighting back for an improbable draw against Queens Park Rangers.

The point that Wolves earned, courtesy of a scrambled goal by Goodman and a well-taken penalty by Curle after they had been overrun in the first half, meant they retain a mathematical chance of depriving Bolton of the automatic promotion spot they will probably clinch against Rangers at Burnden Park on Saturday. Only if Wolves win their last six games, and score more than 30 goals in the process, could Bolton be consigned to the purgatory of the play-offs.

Still, the spirited Wolves recovery, which was prompted by an intelligent double substitution from their manager, Mark McGhee, ended a run of three successive defeats and left them with their hopes of overhauling Barnsley for the second promotion place alive if fading. "Barnsley have got to be the favourites now," McGhee said, "but we are not conceding anything."

Rangers, who had won four out of five before yesterday, moved to within two points of the play-off zone themselves, but their dominance in the opening half an hour was such that their supporters headed home bitterly disappointed that they had not put more pressure on the clubs above them. Rangers began the match playing some of the most lively, inventive football seen outside the Premiership this season. Spencer and Peacock, the two former Chelsea players, seemed to be operating telepathically in attack, too quick in thought and deed for a Wolves defence made to look flat-footed and clumsy.

Nor did Rangers waste time asserting their authority. In the fourth minute, Dichio ran on to a ball threaded through to him by Maddix, but his shot cannoned off Stowell's body and bounced away for a corner. Six minutes later, Stowell rescued his team again when he saved with his feet from Peacock's fierce volley.

In the thirteenth minute, though, the Wolves goalkeeper could resist the barrage no longer. The referee, Steve Baines, played an advantage in midfield, Osborn played a pass into Peacock's path on the right wing, and his deep cross was met at the back post by Spencer, who headed the ball back across Sommer into the far corner of the net.

Rangers did not let up, forging forward, winning every tackle, hoovering up every loose ball. Dichio, bound for Sampdoria at the end of the season, headed just wide from Peacock's cross but, ten minutes later, Wolves only half cleared a Barker cross and Peacock got to the ball first, lashing it into the roof of Stowell's net.

Seven minutes before the interval, Dichio nearly put the game beyond Wolves' reach when he headed firmly against a post with Stowell beaten. By then, though, McGhee had begun to take remedial measures, replacing the lightweight Corica in midfield with the more combative Thomas.

Barely a minute after Dichio's miss, though, with Wolves already stabilised, Goodman pounced on Sommer's fumble to poke the ball into the Rangers net and, five minutes before half-time, McGhee completed the corrective surgery by bringing on Law, who shackled Dichio for the rest of the game, for Venus.

In the second half, Rangers were a shadow of their former selves, tentative and scrappy. They seemed to be hanging on, rather than trying to extend their advantage, but they were undone by a brilliant through ball from Osborn, which Goodman ran on to before being tripped in the box by Yates.

After some delaying gamesmanship from Sommer, Curle sidefooted the penalty low to the goalkeeper's left and into the net via his outstretched hand.

"We came here to try to play a bit but we had to change it around," McGhee said afterwards. "As much as we got it wrong in the first half hour, I would like to think we got it right for the last hour.

"Barnsley [2-1 winners at Reading] had a great result today and obviously they are in the best position, but, if they lose a game, then we are right there with them. We deserved something from today and we can go on from this."

Rangers, who were helped by some of the other results yesterday, need at least a point on Saturday if they are to keep their momentum going. "The first half hour was the best I have seen anybody play in the first division this season," Stewart Houston, the Rangers manager, said.

"It was disappointing not to win but we have scored four points over Easter. I do not think that is a setback. We have to get something out of Bolton. In fact, we have to get something out of everything, now."

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (3-4-3): J Sommer — D Maddix, A McDonald, S Yates — A Impey, P Murray, S Barker (sub: N Quashie 77min), R Brevett — J Spencer, G Peacock, D Dichio (sub: S Slade 77).

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (3-5-2): M Stowell — M Atkins, M Venus, K Curle — J Smith, S Corica (sub: G Thomas 33), D Ferguson, S Osborn, S Froggatt (sub: B Law 40) — I Roberts, D Goodman

Referee: S Baines (Chesterfield; sub. R Coxhead, Huntingdon, 45)

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	40	24	12	4	88	48	84
Barnsley	39	19	13	7	64	44	70
Wolves	40	19	9	12	57	43	66
Sheffield Utd	41	18	11	12	69	49	65
Port Vale	41	15	15	11	51	48	60
C Palace	38	16	11	11	68	39	59
Norwich	41	16	11	14	59	60	59
* Portsmouth	39	17	8	14	50	43	59
Ipswich	40	15	13	12	55	49	58
QPR	41	15	12	14	55	55	57
Stoke	40	16	9	15	46	50	57
Tranmere	40	15	11	14	54	50	56
Swindon	41	15	7	19	52	68	52
Oxford Utd	41	14	9	18	57	59	51
Charlton	39	14	9	16	46	54	51
Birmingham	39	13	12	14	43	45	51
Reading	40	13	11	16	49	57	50
Man City	38	14	8	16	48	49	50
Huddersfield	40	12	12	16	44	56	48
West Brom	40	11	14	15	61	66	47
Bradford	40	10	11	19	42	64	41
Grimsby	39	9	12	18	52	71	39
Oldham	39	9	11	19	44	53	38
* Southend	40	7	13	20	37	74	34

* not including last night's match

Dichio, left, of QPR, comes off second best to Law, of Wolves, during the tense promotion tussle at Loftus Road yesterday afternoon. Photograph: Nick Potts

Barnsley triumph 24
Carlisle derailed 25
Results and tables 25

McGrath misses Ireland's World Cup tie

From Peter Ball
IN SKOPJE

GLENN HODDLE is not the only international football manager suffering late withdrawals. Ireland arrived here yesterday for their World Cup qualifying match with FYR Macedonia without Paul McGrath, their key defensive figure. Instead of boarding the plane, McGrath returned disconsolately to Derby after an achilles strain suffered on Saturday failed to respond to treatment.

With Steve Staunton and Tony Cascarino also carrying injuries, Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, was short of a full complement in yesterday's training session, although Cascarino took some part. McCarthy hopes that both will be able to train fully today, although Staunton's calf injury remains a lingering concern.

The loss of McGrath is already a serious blow. "His ankle is swollen, there was no point in bringing him," McCarthy said. "After his performance in Wales, he would have been a great asset." McCarthy has alternatives, with Gary Breen, of Coventry City, and Kenny Cunningham, of Wimbledon, familiar with the central position in a back three, but neither possess the experience of McGrath.

If Staunton and Cascarino were both to miss out, McCarthy would be reduced to 17 players and could have to call up under-21 team players to act as substitutes.

☐ Everton will today announce a caretaker manager for the rest of the season. Peter Johnson, the FA Carling Premiership club's chairman, said yesterday he had not been surprised by the resignation of Joe Royle last week and that "there were one or two disagreements between us".

Rose proves to be thorn in India's side

By Our Sports Staff

INDIA, needing only 120 runs to win the third Test in Bridgetown, Barbados, were skittled for 81 an hour after lunch yesterday to give West Indies a remarkable victory by 38 runs and a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

Their fast bowlers took full advantage of a pitch that offered extravagant movement and unpredictable bounce. After Rose, in his third Test, removed the top three in the order to complete match figures of seven for 96, the old hands, Bishop and Ambrose, shared the remaining seven wickets.

Having dismissed West Indies for 140 on Sunday evening, India had high hopes of achieving only their third win in 31 Tests in the Caribbean and their first since the 1974-75 series, but they were never seriously in the hunt. West Indies could look back gratefully to a last-wicket partnership of 33 between Ambrose and Dillon in their second innings that, in the end, more or less represented the difference between the sides.

Rose, the muscular Jamaican, operating from the more unpredictable pavilion end, quickly had India in trouble. With only one run added to the overnight score, he dismissed Sidhu with a brute of a ball that jumped at his throat and he could only fend it off the shoulder of the bat to third slip. Dravid edged another ball that leapt to the wicketkeeper and Rose struck again at 32 when Laxman, the only batsman to reach double figures, played hesitantly forward and was bowled.

If India were to challenge for victory, they needed an exceptional innings from their captain, Tendulkar, but, without addition to the total, Bishop induced him to drive. He edged the ball to first slip where Lara, West Indies' acting captain, took an excellent low catch to his left.

Ganguly and Azharuddin rode their luck to score two fours each before Ambrose returned in place of Rose and claimed both their wickets. In Rose's spell, the ball constantly rose disconcertingly off a good length; now both batsmen were undone, playing back, by balls that kept low.

Bishop returned to dismiss Kumble just before the interval, the leg spinner skying an on-drive off the leading edge straight to Holder at square leg, and India went to lunch, down but not quite out, at 62 for seven.

Soon afterwards, Mongia was bowled by Bishop, playing no stroke, and at this stage India were in danger of falling for their lowest total against West Indies. However, Ganesh and Kuruvilla, who had shone with the ball the previous day, edged the score past the 75 made in Delhi in 1987-88, but they were only delaying the inevitable.

At 80, Kuruvilla holed out to mid-on off Ambrose and, one run later, Bishop secured his fourth wicket of the innings when he bowled Prasad.

India will now have to regroup for the fourth Test which starts on Friday at the Recreation Ground in Antigua, a pitch that is usually, they will be relieved to know, kinder to batsmen.

Rose: first three wickets

FINAL SCOREBOARD FROM BRIDGETOWN

WEST INDIES: First Innings 298 (S Chanderpaul 137 not out, B K V Prasad 5 for 82)

Second Innings

S L Campbell c Mongia b Ganesh	16
S C Williams b Prasad	0
S Chanderpaul lbw b Kuruvilla	3
*B C Lara c Azharuddin b Prasad	45
C L Hooper lbw b Ganesh	4
R I C Holder c Mongia b Prasad	13
†C O Browne c Mongia b Kuruvilla	1
I R Bishop lbw b Kuruvilla	6
C E L Ambrose not out	12
F A Rose c Ganguly b Kuruvilla	4
M V Dillon b Kuruvilla	21
Extras (lb 5 nb 2)	7
Total	140

FALL OF WICKETS 1-9, 2-19, 3-37, 4-65, 5-86, 6-87 7-91, 8-95, 9-107

BOWLING. Prasad 18-6-32-3 Kuruvilla 21-6-68-5, Ganesh 6-1-26-2

INDIA: First Innings

V V S Laxman b Ambrose	6
N S Sidhu c Browne b Rose	26
R S Dravid b Ambrose	78
*S R Tendulkar c Campbell b Bishop	92
S C Ganguly c Browne b Dillon	22
M Azharuddin c Browne b Rose	17
†N R Mongia c Williams b Bishop	1
A R Kumble not out	23
A Kuruvilla b Ambrose	0
D Ganesh c Browne b Rose	8
B K V Prasad c Holder b Rose	0
Extras (b 2, lb 12, w 2, nb 30)	46
Total	319

FALL OF WICKETS 1-23, 2-42, 3-212, 4-253, 5-273, 6-275 7-295 8-296 9-319.

BOWLING Ambrose 29-8-74-2; Bishop 28-6-70-3 Dillon 19-5-56-1, Rose 22-4-77-4 Hooper 8-1-25-0

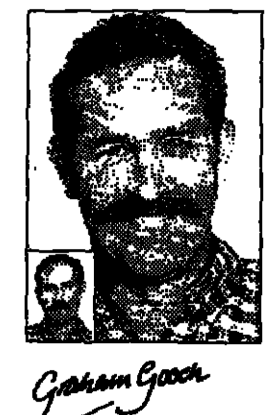
Second Innings

V V S Laxman b Rose	19
N S Sidhu c Williams b Rose	3
R S Dravid c Browne b Rose	2
*S R Tendulkar c Lara b Bishop	4
S C Ganguly b Ambrose	8
M Azharuddin b Ambrose	9
†N R Mongia b Bishop	5
A R Kumble c Holder b Bishop	1
D Ganesh not out	7
A Kuruvilla c Holder b Ambrose	9
B K V Prasad b Bishop	0
Extras (b 2, lb 1, nb 11)	14
Total	81

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-16, 3-32, 4-32, 5-45, 6-51, 7-57, 8-66, 9-80

BOWLING Ambrose 15-3-37-3, Bishop 11.5-4-22-4, Rose 9-2-19-3

Umpires. L R Barker (West Indies) and S G Rendell (Australia)



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TIMES 1/4

FOOTBALL

Battling Barnsley approach the promised land

Reading	1
Barnsley	2

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

BARNSLEY extended their unbeaten run to seven matches and retained second place in the Nationwide League first division when they defeated Reading in a scrappy, often fractious, encounter at Elm Park yesterday. The big boys of the FA Carling Premiership may not yet be quaking in their expensively sponsored boots, but the under-rated club from South Yorkshire are hurtling towards them with spirit and verve.

It is not all home-grown talent, either, that is propelling them on their way. Clint Marcelle, of Trinidad and Tobago, Arjan de Zeeuw, from Holland, and Jovo Bosancic, of Croatia, played vigorous parts in an effective if unspectacular performance. Laurens Ten Heuvel, another Dutchman, was sitting on the bench.

With the best of British complementing the continentals, Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, has created a heady mix. "The position is getting better and better, but there are still a few clubs a bit too close for comfort," Wilson said. "I suppose no one will be able to catch us if we keep winning, but we would rather go up by our own merits, rather than our rivals falling away below us."

The first half had proved a bizarre, almost surreal, spectacle in the sun, with neither defence at ease. Reading were particularly shaky at the back, especially in the opening quarter of an hour.

Steve Bennett, the referee, also made a strange contribution. Had he exerted greater control when the niggle and mutual dislike first emerged, he would not have needed to caution Williams, de Zeeuw, Sheridan and Blatherwick before the break.

Redfearn was added to the list early in the second half as he temporarily left the field, injured and on a stretcher, but Bennett's decision in the 26th minute was comfortably his most contentious. Quite why he awarded a penalty, when Nogan's dive under the lightest of challenges from de Zeeuw was so clearly manufactured, must remain a mystery. "It was a joke," Wilson said.

Still, penalty it was and Morley confidently thumped in his 23rd goal of the season. He later retired hurt, still feeling the effects of a crunching tackle from Sheridan, and with him went Reading's best chance of salvaging a point.

Barnsley had gone ahead after only 90 seconds, when Liddell's half-hit cross was deflected into his own goal by Holsgrove. Mautone, wrong-footed and left languishing on his backside, was a picture of abject misery.

In the fifteenth minute, Barnsley's initial enterprise was again rewarded. Sloppy defence was a key factor once more, with Reading failing to clear the ball, despite several attempts, and then allowing Liddell to run through unimpeded to slot his shot past Mautone.

With Bennett's display degenerating further — he also chose to book Parkinson, McPherson and Bernal — so the match deteriorated in the second half. Barnsley always looked the more lively, exhibiting a number of slick moves that might be appreciated at a higher level, but rarely looked like improving their tally.

Neither did the Morley-less Reading, though they thrust players forward near the end with an abandon that bordered on the suicidal. Watson, the Barnsley goalkeeper, was protected throughout by Moses and de Zeeuw while Eaden and Thompson, the wing backs, worked tirelessly.

It was not Barnsley at their best, but they never needed to be. Three more points, though, takes them nearer to the promised land.

READING (3-5-2): S Mautone — S Blatherwick, P Holsgrove, K McPherson — A Bernal, M Williams (sub: J Quinn, 77min), P Parkinson (sub: D Caskey, 77), M Gooding, P Bodin — L Nogan, T Morley (sub: S Lovell, 47).

BARNSLEY (3-5-2): D Watson — A Moses, M Appleby (sub: J Bosancic, 60), A de Zeeuw — N Eaden, C Marcelle, N Redfearn, D Sheridan, N Thompson — J Hendrie, A Liddell.

Referee: S Bennett.

Lee lends hand to Grimsby's cause

TWO forwards who have experienced the rarefied atmosphere of the FA Carling Premiership were instrumental yesterday in keeping their teams in with a fighting chance of staying in the Nationwide League first division.

Jason Lee, on loan to Grimsby Town from Nottingham Forest, enjoyed a fruitful afternoon, heading the 74th-minute goal that gave his side a 2-1 victory over Ipswich Town at Blundell Park. At Boundary Park, Stuart Barlow, once of Everton, scored a hat-trick in Oldham Athletic's 5-1 victory over Swindon Town. However, neither victory significantly alleviated the two clubs' problems, because Bradford City's win over Stoke City kept the Yorkshire club just above the third relegation place.

Defeat at Grimsby was a severe blow to the promotion prospects of Ipswich, who missed out on the chance to move back into the play-off zone and also had Scowcroft sent off for use of the elbow. Swindon were overwhelmed by a second hat-trick of the season for Barlow, who scored after 22, 71 and 75 minutes.

Brentford reasserted themselves in the race for promotion from the second division with a 2-1 victory at Gillingham. Janney and Asaba, with his 23rd goal of the season, scored in each half.

Bristol Rovers enhanced their chances of staying up and dented Wrexham's hopes of moving into the play-offs with a 2-0 victory at the Memorial Ground.

Wigan Athletic, the leaders of the third division, suffered an unexpected home defeat against Cardiff City, but retained the leadership thanks to a defeat for Carlisle United and the draw between Fulham and Rochdale. Haworth scored the goal that lifted Cardiff City into the play-off area. They were joined by Scarborough, who defeated Scunthorpe United 3-2. Midgley and Brodie, with two goals, put Scarborough 3-0 ahead before Jones and Forrester replied.

ROGER PARKER

Liddell, right, celebrates the fortuitous opening goal for Barnsley as his team-mates rush to join him

Sheffield's ambitions look foolish

Huddersfield Town	2
Sheffield United	1

BY RICHARD HOBSON

FOOTBALL has been considered both art and science down the years. At the McAlpine Stadium yesterday, 14,551 spectators witnessed a comedy unfold, although those supporting Sheffield United would only have smiled through tears as they watched their prospects of automatic promotion to the FA Carling Premiership recede.

Three extraordinary goals made this entertainment of the highest order; entire series of situation comedies have been sustained by less. With more competent defending, the game would have ended goalless.

Equally, there seemed little need for Eddie Wolstenholme, the referee, to send off one player from each side. The number of errors condensed into 90 minutes is the reason this match will linger in the memory. Even within the first minute, it became necessary to check the dateline on the programme to ensure that April Fool's Day had not come a day early.

Beresford, chasing a long clearance from Glover, crossed from the right. Dalton rose tentatively at the far post, about 12 yards out, and headed towards goal, but with insufficient power to beat Tracey — or so it seemed when the goalkeeper dived to his left and caught the ball.

Once in possession, Tracey's momentum sent his body through 180 degrees. Unfortunately, he was still holding the ball and he carried it over the line. To those who also follow rugby league at this ground, the scene might have resembled somebody stretching to ground a try.

Fifteen minutes later, Tracey was rescued, although Sinnott represented an unlikely samaritan. Huddersfield appeared to have repelled a United attack. Hutchison headed back into a sparsely-populated penalty area. Sinnott, though, reacted to the ball as if it carried the menace of a grenade. He cleared promptly and firmly in the direction he was facing in honour of the defenders' textbook. Unfortunately, he was facing his own goal and Francis could only watch the ball fly past him.

It seemed that players were trying to steal the show from their predecessors. At this point, United formed a collective to add further to the merriment. Beresford swung in a corner that was cleared to Cowan, the left back, on the edge of the penalty area. Cowan remained true to his defensive instincts and put height as well as distance on his header. With Tracey out of position, still stranded by the original cross, and the defenders supposedly guarding the goalline having stepped forward, the ball descended from its loop under the crossbar.

In fairness, Tracey was faultless for the remaining 73 minutes. He saved superbly from Dyson, bravely at the feet of Dalton and twice from Beresford as Huddersfield counter-attacked in the closing minutes.

By that stage, fatigue had set in and the pitch appeared bigger because of the two dismissals. Dyson, booked in the 23rd minute, was sent off for a second foul, on Walker, two minutes into the second half. Henry followed after 53 minutes for tripping Burnett, just four minutes after his initial booking.

"If you set your standards low, early on, by penalising everything, then the probability is that players will be sent off," Howard Kendall, the United manager, said.

Of more concern is the league table. United struck the upright through Fjortoft and had further chances through Walker and Whitehouse, but defeat leaves them five points behind second-placed Barnsley, their South Yorkshire neighbours, having played two games more.

"It appears as though we must look towards the play-offs," Kendall admitted.

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN: (4-4-2) S Francis — D Edmondson, S Jenkins, L Sinnott, T Cowan (sub: K Gray, 80min) — D Beresford, J Dyson, M Browning, P Dalton — D Facey (sub: W Burnett, 51), L Glover (sub: R Edwards, 88).

SHEFFIELD UNITED: (4-4-2) S Tracey — M Ward, D Holdsworth, C Tiler, L Sandford (sub: J-A Fjortoft, 56) — D White, N Henry, D Hutchison (sub: N Spackman, 45), D Whitehouse — G Taylor (sub: P Katchouro, 68), A Walker.

Referee: E Wolstenholme

Celtic deny any move to sign Kinnear as coach

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

FERGUS McCANN, the Celtic chairman, yesterday dismissed as "malicious gossip" reports linking the Wimbledon manager, Joe Kinnear, with the Parkhead position. The future of the Celtic manager Tommy Burns is under a cloud, with McCann having stated repeatedly that the position will be discussed at the end of the season.

Celtic have won one trophy in three years under Burns, who moved to Parkhead from Kilmarnock in July 1994 to replace the dismissed Lou Macari.

Celtic face Falkirk in the Tennents Scottish Cup semi-final at Ibrox on Saturday, April 12, while Wimbledon meet Chelsea in the FA Cup semi-final the same weekend.

McCann denied any contact had been made with Kinnear, who has also led Wimbledon to the Coca-Cola Cup final this year. "We have not discussed any job with any other manager — the suggestion of an approach to Joe Kinnear is completely without foundation," McCann said. "I have never even spoken to the man. This amounts to nothing more than malicious gossip."

Kinnear, who turned down the chance to manage Ireland when Jack Charlton departed, was linked with Everton as well yesterday in the wake of Joe Royle's departure from Goodison Park last week.

Kevin Harper, the Scotland Under-21 striker, is using the European championship qualifying matches as a platform to parade his skills and prove he can operate at the top level. The young Hibernian player has had an indifferent time in the premier division this season, but he has looked the part at international level and scored during the 4-0 defeat of Estonia at Stirling last Friday.

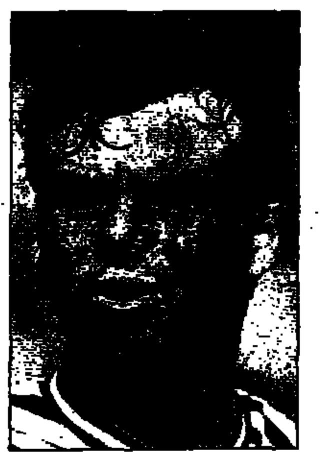
The Estonia coach, Roman Ubakivi, named the Oldham-born Harper as the player who caused his team the most problems, but Harper has been pushed into the background at Easter Road after the arrival of the Dundee pair, Paul Tosh and Lee Power.

Today, he has another chance to prove his worth at Fir Park, Motherwell, against Austria, who thumped Scotland 4-0 in the opening game. The victory against Estonia has brought a mood of optimism to the home camp, although the coach, Tommy Craig, realises they need a maximum 15 points from their remaining five games if they are to qualify.

"Fans have played a major part in crucial victories for us in the past and I hope they can do the same again," Craig said. "We had a very disappointing start in the group, but the Estonia game has given us a lift. We have to take that confidence into the next game. The lads are all desperate to do it. There were five debutants against Estonia and they all made an excellent contribution in difficult conditions.

"If they show the same level of commitment and performance in the remaining games, they have a good future ahead of them with the under-21 squad."

Norwich lose their way again on path to promotion



Fleck: made chances

Norwich City	1
Oxford United	1

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

IT WOULD be no great hardship to have Norwich City back in the FA Carling Premiership. They have a pleasant ground, play in nice yellow shirts and they have as much talent in their team as Wolverhampton Wanderers, a point they can make when they go to Molineux on Saturday.

However, they needed to win this Nationwide League first division encounter yesterday to move into a play-off position and that they failed to do.

It must be said that, at times, they tend to gild the lily. There are ways of scoring other than walking the ball into the goal, but Norwich seemed none too keen to explore those possibilities. Their football was often pretty, but equally often they were not sufficiently determined to press home their advantage in a match that they really ought to have won with quite a bit to spare.

Darren Eadie gave them a tenth-minute lead with his fourteenth goal of the season, driven in firmly from Jackson's pass, and he troubled Oxford all afternoon with his darting runs from the left, despite taking a nasty knock on his right ankle after just 17 minutes. In the second half, as Norwich tried to regain the lead, a hat-trick was his for the taking. Alas, the England Under-21 player declined to take it.

There was a bit of a rumpus 20 minutes from time when the referee, John Kirkby, booked Gilchrist, the Oxford centre half, for a covert tug at Eadie's shirt when the striker was breaking towards goal. "Off!" the Norwich fans shouted with emphasis, but the referee was probably right in assuming that, as other Oxford defenders were abreast of Eadie, it was not a clear scoring chance. Eadie felt differently, but then he would.

He should have saved his anger for the game. Fleck, who had a good match alongside him, set up two glorious chances in the opening stages of the second half. Eadie shot wide the first time and then, given a clear view of goal, he prodded the ball against Whitehead.

Later, when Fleck was in a good position to receive a pass himself, Eadie chose to shoot from 25 yards and sent the ball hopelessly wide. He has not yet earned the right to be so indulgent.

Nevertheless, there is a lot of ability in the Norwich side. Gunn, Newman and Crook are familiar names from their FA Carling Premiership days and Milligan is as disputatious as ever. He does not achieve a great deal, but he gives them whatever bite they have in midfield, where Adams, roaming down the right, is their natural outlet. Whitehead reserved one of his last and best saves for him as Norwich, suddenly aware that victory was not necessarily theirs, grew ever more impatient.

Oxford had two chances and scored from their second, when Moody invited Massey to run in a 32nd-minute equaliser. They have seen their play-off ambitions evaporate, but they proved here that they can spoil those of others. For Norwich, these were two points lost.

NORWICH CITY (3-4-3): B Gunn — M Jackson, C Bradshaw (sub: J Polston, 78min), R Newman — N Adams, I Crook, M Milligan, D Sutch — R Fleck, D Broughton (sub: A Forbes, 80), D Eadie.

OXFORD UNITED (4-4-2) P Whitehead — L Robinson, D Purse, P Gilchrist, M Ford — D Smith, M Gray, M Murphy (sub: J Beauchamp, 80), S Massey — P Moody (sub. M Aldridge, 70), N Jemson.

Referee: J Kirkby.

Pepper makes the difference as Macari feels the heat

Bradford City	1
Stoke City	0

BY KEITH PIKE

CHRIS KAMARA, the voluble, personable manager of Bradford City, has spent much of the season criticising what he perceives to be the poor standard of refereeing in the Nationwide League first division, and events at Valley Parade yesterday did nothing to change his mind.

For once, though, it was his team that profited from a spot of controversy as a match that had simmered gently in the bright, Yorkshire sunshine suddenly boiled over.

With an hour gone and Bradford threatening to add to the lead given them by Nigel Pepper four minutes into the second half, Edinho, their Brazilian striker, chased a long ball into the penalty area with Sigurdsson and, having seemingly lost the race, suddenly found another gear to get goal-side. Down they both went and, from perhaps 30 yards away, George Frankland, the referee, imposed the mandatory double punishment — a penalty to Bradford and the dismissal of the Stoke City captain.

Edinho's weak spot kick was easily saved by Muggleton, but that did not ease Stoke's sense of injustice. Three minutes later, Lou Macari walked five yards on to the pitch to remonstrate with the official and was sent packing to the stand, after much persuasion by the stewards that Frankland summoned to enforce his ruling.

Kamara, who suffered the same fate two days earlier at Fratton Park during Bradford's defeat against Portsmouth, had only sympathy for his opposite number. "The professional foul dictat is "a bit of a nonsense rule", Kamara said. "He [Sigurdsson] was making an attempt to make the ball, there was nothing malicious in it, even if there was a penalty in it.

"I feel sorry for Lou. It is our livelihood, so you do get emotional about it. I told him we would have to share a taxi to Lancaster Gate."

Macari, though, seemed surprised at the existence of a rule designed to cut out what amounts to cheating — an inexplicable omission for a manager of his experience. "I am not arguing about the penalty, but the sending off was ridiculous, a real bowler," he said. "There is nothing in the rule book that says he had to go." Some bedtime reading is recommended.

Even Macari could have no complaints about the result, a defeat that casts serious doubts on Stoke's ability to reach the play-offs. Edinho later volleyed over an open goal and, twice in the closing stages, Wilder hit the outside of Muggleton's goalframe.

The goal that counted was struck beautifully from 20 yards by Pepper, who is more than repaying the £100,000 that it cost Bradford to bring him from York City last month. With Grimsby Town and Oldham Athletic also winning yesterday, it was enough to earn the points that keep Bradford out of the relegation zone and they played with enough spirit, if not finishing power, to suggest that they have the ability to survive.

"We haven't played as much football since Chris Waddle left, but we are a lot harder to beat," Kamara said.

BRADFORD CITY (3-5-2): A Davison — A O'Brien, N Mohan, J Dreyer — R Liburd (sub: C Wilder, 74min), N Pepper, G Kulcsar, S Murray, W Jacobs — Edinho, M Newell

STOKE CITY (3-5-2): C Muggleton — J Whittle, L Sigurdsson, M McNally — S Flynn (sub. N MacKenzie, 78), C Beeston, R Wallace, R Forsyth, A Griffin — M Sheron, M Macari

Referee: G Frankland.

Scimeca joins list of unlucky captains

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

GLENN HODDLE, the England coach, had his patience sorely tested last week as, one by one, players dropped out from the squad to play Mexico at Wembley. Yesterday, it was the turn of Peter Taylor, the England Under-21 coach, to experience the frustrations of international management.

Taylor had lost already Phil Stamp, Lee Hendrie, Matthew Rose and Phil Neville from his squad to face Switzerland at the County Ground, Swindon, tonight. Yesterday, Riccardo Scimeca, the Aston Villa central defender, withdrew with a thigh problem.

Scimeca was the third Under-21 captain this season, having followed elegantly in the footsteps of Ben Thatcher and Nicky Butt. He played a leading role in the 1-0 win against Italy in the European under-21 championship qualifying match at Ashton Gate, Bristol, in February.

"It would appear the armband has some sort of jinx on it," Taylor said. "It's very disappointing for us that Riccardo has to drop out and especially disappointing for him, but we didn't want to take any risks. There's no way we wanted to send him back to Villa with the injury having been made worse."

Lee Bowyer, the Leeds United midfield player, has been named captain. He received a late call-up to the senior squad by Hoddle last week, but did not feature in the 2-0 win against Mexico. Similarly, Rio Ferdinand, who also trained with the full squad, will return to face Switzerland.

Hoddle assisted Taylor with his final preparations yesterday and spoke about the need to foster a kindred spirit among the younger players.

"We're looking to get more of a club feel to the international set-up," he said. "It's something I'm very keen on. I'd also like to bring in players at 18, instead of them usually having only one year before they move out of the age group. Having that extra two years will give them good experience, time to bed down and should be much more advantageous for us and them."

ENGLAND UNDER-21 (from): B Roberts (Middlesbrough), R Ferdinand (West Ham United), M Broomes (Blackburn Rovers), M Carbon (Derby County), J Carragher (Liverpool), L Bowyer (Leeds United), S Hughes (Arsenal), M Hall (Coventry City), D Huckerby (Coventry City), R Humphreys (Sheffield Wednesday), I Moore (Nottingham Forest), M Bridges (Sunderland), J Morris (Chelsea), L Briscoe (Sheffield Wednesday).

Mills calls the tune as Vale thrive on domestic harmony

Port Vale	2
Tranmere Rovers	1

BY MARK HODKINSON

A COMPUTERISED switchboard awaits telephone callers at the likes of Manchester United and Blackburn Rovers. It will suggest that they press the star button for the required service. Pressing the star button has, in fact, become something of a habit in the FA Carling Premiership.

In contrast, Port Vale's telephone system is wonderfully archaic. A helpful lady puts the call on hold and before she returns the listener is serenaded by the lilting tones of *Greensleeves*.

John Rudge, the Port Vale manager, has quietly but effectively assembled a team imbued with old-fashioned values. The ball is played to feet, players are expected to work for the good of the team and supporters' songs along the lines of *There's Only One Ian Bogie* are a testimony to their homespun qualities.

Resplendent in his suit and tie at the pitchside, Rudge has the calm, personable manner of a favourite uncle. He is always on his feet encouraging players, applauding their efforts and never bawling or bullying.

The sun shone on Vale Park, but most of the holiday traffic backed up on the M6 was heading for Alton Towers or one of Staffordshire's many stately homes. The message that Rudge is providing another tourist attraction among the Potteries has clearly not reached the masses.

The holiday atmosphere caught the players in relaxed mood and it was surprising that two goals were elicited from a languid first half. Irons rammed the ball under the diving body of Musselwhite before Mills equalised after a fine cross by Hill.

The play was still fractured after the interval, but Vale contrived to piece together a delightful move that ultimately secured all three points. Naylor slipped the ball to Talbot and Nixon parried his fierce drive into the path of Mills. The tall striker waited patiently for the ball to drop before blasting it into the net.

Tranmere tried to retrieve the game, but were short of ideas and luck. Lee Jones sneaked in between Aspin and Musselwhite, but fired into the side-netting. John Aldridge, the Tranmere player-manager, came on as substitute in the final minute, but failed to find the pace of the match.

"It took us a long while to get ourselves going," Rudge said. "We did not have any sparkle and Tranmere made it difficult for us; they are a good passing side."

He praised his goalscorer, Mills, who has now hit six in five matches. "He got us back into the match," Rudge said. "He is hungry and confident at the moment. He has helped to secure us three valuable points."

The win has consolidated Vale's position in the play-off zone of the Nationwide League first division. It is not inconceivable that next season the likes of Manchester United, Arsenal and Newcastle United will be queuing up along the M6 to reach the small town of Burslem, where Port Vale are based. Hopefully, they will still be playing *Greensleeves* over the telephone.

PORT VALE (4-4-2): P Musselwhite — A Hill, N Aspin, D Glover, A Tankard — S Talbot, I Bogie (sub. R Walker, 86min), A Porter, R Koordes — L Mills, T Naylor (sub. M Foyle, 84).

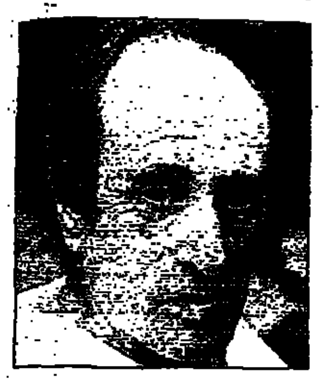
TRANMERE ROVERS (4-1-3-2): E Nixon — T Thomas, J McGreal, D Challinor, B Woods — L O'Brien — J Morrissey (sub: G Branch, 77), K Irons (sub: J Aldridge, 82), P Cook — L Jones, G Jones.

Referee: T Heilbron.

Carlisle's promotion bandwagon is forced off the rails by Orient express

Day return trip ends with sad postmortem

BRIAN GLANVILLE



PHOTOGRAPHS: GILL ALLEN

Hearn, the chairman, cheers his Leyton Orient team to victory, left, as Thomas, of Carlisle, sees his run halted by Channing, right, and Adkin

"You've changed the place of them posts, since I was here," Mervyn Day, the Carlisle United manager and former Leyton Orient goalkeeper, said to Tommy Taylor, the present Orient manager. Day certainly had a point. Three times, Carlisle, riding high in the Nationwide League third division, hit Orient's posts, but only once did the ball go in.

So it was that Orient, high on their surprising away success against Scunthorpe United on Saturday — only their third of the season and the first since September — emerged from this game with a 2-1 victory and all three points.

"An Orient away win," Barry Hearn, their chairman, said, "is rarer than a Château Lafite 1953." In Hearn's view: "We've got to go up next year".

What Hearn has been doing for Orient, the flamboyant Michael Knighton has been doing for Carlisle. It seems long ago that, before what you might call the takeover that never was at Manchester United, Knighton was seen on the pitch at Old Trafford, juggling a football to the amazement of the crowd. Day says that much of the money to finance Carlisle's new £2.5 million stand came from Knighton himself.

As for Hearn, he denies that he can any longer, after a couple of years, be called "the saviour". Now, he says, Orient is run as an efficient business, though, given the frenetic turnover of footballers this season, "we've had more problems with the players not knowing the other players' names, they've been coming in so fast".

This eventful, entertaining game was, as both managers agreed, dominated by Orient in the first half and Carlisle in the second. Did Orient run out of steam? Taylor admitted that they might have and that the sunshine could have got to them.

As for Day, he confessed that, "we defended very poorly in that 15 to 20 minutes". Minutes, indeed, that cost Carlisle the game. The opening three minutes were alarming for Carlisle, but inspiring for Orient. First, Channing sent Chapman to the byeline, but somehow Carlisle escaped when he pulled the ball across the goal.

They did not escape in the third minute, when Arnott crossed from the left for the ever-dynamic McGleish to bang the ball in. Eight minutes later, McGleish scored Orient's second goal, the result of a defensive fiasco. Hyde, the Orient goalkeeper, booted the ball long and high up the field. It looked entirely a defender's ball, but McGleish outjumped Walling and sent his header looping into the net.

The incidents of a single minute just before half-time were probably decisive for the game. First, when Channing, always eager to overlap from Orient's five-man defence, centred from the right, Timmons got his head to it, but the ball flew just outside the right-hand post. Almost immediately, Carlisle were on the attack. A tremendous drive by Pounewatchy, their French import, rebounded from the post. In ran Hopper to strike home his shot with precision.

From that moment, the tide turned. Now it was almost all Carlisle, with Thomas leading the home defenders a devilish dance and the posts twice coming to Orient's rescue. Perhaps the fact that, for much of the time, Carlisle had five men in midfield against Orient's three tipped the balance.

In any event, Hyde was kept occupied. He saved from Thomas, he saved bravely, point-blank from Hayward. There was brief relief for Orient on the hour when McGleish — who, Taylor said, gives 100 per cent and would give another five if he had it — beat his man out on the right and crossed for Morrison to shoot and Caig to make a save.

When Carlisle brought on Matt Jansen, a remarkable 19-year-old, Orient were on the ropes more than ever. Day described Jansen, a local boy, as "a great talent" and, on this evidence, it is almost an understatement. The way he spun on a ball to send his left-foot shot crashing against the inside of the post was wonderfully precocious. Later, he was denied only by a brave dive by Hyde.

Seven minutes after Jansen had hit the post, Conway hit it again, though this time it was the outside rather than the inside. It was all Carlisle by now, but after 90 minutes Garland's pass sent McGleish away again and, once more, Caig had to save. In the last analysis, you might say that the posts had it.

LEYTON ORIENT (5-3-2): P Hyde — J Channing, M Warren, C Timmons, P Adkin, D Naylor — D Chapman (sub: P Garland, 88), A Arnott, D Morrison (sub: M Ling, 65) — S McGleish, C Griffiths (sub: L Fortune-West, 54)

CARLISLE UNITED (3-5-2): T Caig — D Walling, W Varty, S Pounewatchy — A Hopper, P Conway, S Hayward, O Archdeacon, W Aspinall (sub: M Jansen, 68) — L Peacock, R Thomas (sub: J Thorpe, 88).

Referee: R Harris.

Careless Fulham squander chance to go top

Fulham 1
Rochdale 1

By Simon Wilde

WHAT does a team do when it has virtually guaranteed itself a promotion place? Does it play for the championship, polish its skills or dream of the greater battles to come next season? Fulham, who began the day in third place in the Nationwide League third division, with an 11-point cushion over the next side, seemed unable to make up their minds at Craven Cottage and lost the chance to go top.

They began purposefully enough, with pace and fluidity, apparently determined to show the large home contingent basking in the afternoon sun that anything was possible. It was no surprise when, after Angus had moved the ball quickly from midfield to the left, Warren's cross was met by Conroy's powerful header to give them the lead in the eleventh minute. Let the floodgates open.

Fulham maintained the pressure, but Rochdale, physically strong and always determined, hung on, waiting for the storm to subside. It did not take long. A careless moment by Fulham in the 39th minute allowed Gouck time to advance and score from 25 yards out. It was an equaliser entirely against the run of play.

Rochdale now knew they had a chance and Fulham realised nothing was going to be straightforward. Indeed, early in the second half, the visitors, working around the robust midfield pair of Gouck and Deary, appeared to possess the greater self-belief. But for some sound work from the composed Lawrence, they might have taken the lead and threatened Fulham's unbeaten run that dates back to early February.

Gradually, though, Fulham came again, the starting point being Blake narrowly driving wide of the left-hand post in the fiftieth minute. One minute later, Lawrence's cross found Warren, who headed just wide.

Fulham stayed in control, but were unable to translate their greater skills into goals, even when the introduction of Brooker and Scott renewed the pace in their legs. They won corner after corner and fired in cross after cross, but Rochdale took it all in their stride.

For all Fulham's industry, Gray, the Rochdale goalkeeper, was given few serious tests before Brooker drove perilously close into the side netting. Fulham need to work out why they cannot crack codes such as this if they have serious aspirations to win the championship or prosper in the second division.

FULHAM (4-4-2): M Walton — P Watson, T Angus, N Cusack, M Lawrence — D Freeman (sub: R Scott, 70min), S Morgan, R Carpenter, M Blake — M Conroy, C Warren (sub: P Brooker, 63)

ROCHDALE (4-4-2): I Gray — A Farrell, A Johnson, K Hill, A Fensome — A Gouck, M Leonard, J Deary, M Bailey — K Formby (sub: R Painter, 45), A Russell.

Referee: A D'Urso

Watford lose momentum

Plymouth Argyle 0
Watford 0

By Nick Szczepanik

WHEN THESE two teams contested an FA Cup semi-final in 1984, Plymouth were in more or less the same position they occupy now — going nowhere in the bottom division but one. Watford, however, were in the top flight and, on the strength of a hat-trick of 1-0 victories, they went into the holiday programme optimistic of taking the first steps on the long road back. It was almost beginning to look as if the bookmakers who made them pre-season favourites for promotion knew a thing or two.

Easter, however, has been a severe let-down. The 1-0 home defeat by Bournemouth on Saturday was followed by this truly dire goalless draw, although Watford remain in the log-jam that is the top of the Nationwide League second division.

"Looking at the last five games, we've won three, lost one and drawn one," Kenny Jackett, the Watford manager said. "We're still in a play-off spot with eight games to go and we have to stick in there."

If those eight games are anything like this one, it will be a painful run-in. With each side playing three forwards and Bruce Grobbelaar indulging in a couple of eccentric early excursions from his goal — some way down the left wing in one case — more action might have been expected, but statistics rarely lie. A combination of Watford's miserly defence, which has conceded only 27 goals — the fewest in the Nationwide League — and the low-scoring Argyle attack produced a soporific first half. The bizarre announcement of the half-time scores, using names of managers and sponsors instead of clubs, was more inventive than anything that had happened on the pitch.

It took 54 minutes for the first real chance to arrive and Watford created it when a pass from Ramage, playing his first game since an injury in September, found Richard Johnson with only Grobbelaar to beat, but the goalkeeper blocked the shot and Williams was able to clear. Johnson's next effort, a low 25-yarder, was much better, demanding a one-handed save from Grobbelaar at the foot of the post.

Bazeley and Slater, the substitutes, both headed tamely at good late chances for Watford, although, at the other end, a close-range shot from Collins was repelled bravely by Miller and Billy's 35-yard shot screamed just over the crossbar.

"The chances were there to have won it," Luther Blissett, the Watford assistant manager, said. "Anyone who can put three results together as we did before Easter will be back in there and it's just a question of doing it again."

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (1-3-3-3): B Grobbelaar — J Rowbotham — M Heathcote, M Patterson, P Williams (sub: R Mauge, 71min) — C Billy, M Barlow, M Saunders — C Corazzin, S Collins, A Littlejohn

WATFORD (4-3-3): K Miller — N Gibbs, R Page, K Millen, C Armstrong — G Penrice, S Palmer (sub: D Bazeley, 66), R Johnson — C Ramage, K Phillips, T Mooney (sub: S Slater, 56)

Referee: M Fletcher.

Trust ready to unveil rescue plan

THE group fighting to save Bournemouth from extinction is expected to announce tonight that it has been successful in its efforts to save the club.

Trevor Watkins, the chairman of the trust fund, said an announcement would be made before the Nationwide League second division game against Stockport County at Dean Court.

"Without wishing to preempt too much from tomorrow's announcement, we hope to declare plans to become Europe's first community-owned club," Watkins said. The trust fund has been in negotiations throughout the Easter weekend with the club's creditors, including the Inland Revenue, which is owed £250,000.

Watkins said: "We are confident a solution has been found and that more people will pledge their assistance to the club once the future is secured."

Bustling Bury fail to excite

Bury 2
Wycombe Wanderers ... 0

By David Maddock

WITH SO much at stake for both sides on a horrible, cow patch of a pitch, it would be easy to decry the standard of football offered by two teams leaden with nerves. Let us take the easy option, then — this was a truly shocking game.

Bury's victory reinforces their position at the head of the Nationwide League second division, but the fact that they remain three points clear is all they will wish to take from a match that offered only five attempts on goal all afternoon.

Wycombe Wanderers remain perilously within the relegation zone and it is not difficult to work out why. Their away form is abysmal and they appear to have a selection policy based not on talent, but on size. Never before can so many large, immobile players have been collected together in one team.

One tame shot from Simpson after 35 minutes, the first of the game, and an intelligent header by Scott a minute from time was the sum total of their attacking efforts. It is true that neither the pitch nor their parlous position encouraged ambition against strong opponents, but even given their games in hand, Wycombe will do well to claw their way out of trouble.

Bury will probably enjoy more success in their loftier ambition of promotion, but it appears they, too, have been strangled by the pressure that has afflicted all the teams at the top of this division. Such a response is a surprise, given the home side's confidence-boosting burst of five victories in succession.

At least they managed to rouse themselves after a first half that was quite possibly the worst anywhere all season. A measure of its desperate nature was the ironic cheer some 25 minutes into the game when the home team finally managed to string together more than two passes.

Bury's first opportunity produced the first goal and it came via a set-piece. Woodward launched a long free kick into the penalty area, Battersby, on loan from Notts County, chested the ball down and the lurking Daws found the net with a delicious volley from 16 yards.

Given Wycombe's record of one victory away from home all season, that was that as far as the result was concerned. Bury confirmed it with their second goal, which came six minutes from time. Armstrong sent another free kick into the penalty area and Butler, the central defender, eluded his marker to loop a header over Taylor.

Bury have, at least, found a winning formula at the right time and, if the quality was understandably lacking on an uncomfortable afternoon, then they do possess the muscular ingredient required in any promotion-winning effort.

BURY (5-3-2): D Kiely — D West, C Lucketti (sub: I Hughes, 49min), A Woodward, P Butler, G Armstrong — N Daws, A Randall (sub: M Carter, 56), L Johnrose — A Battersby, D Johnson (sub: A Scott, 80).

WYCOMBE WANDERERS (5-3-2): M Taylor — J Cousins, J Kavanagh, T Evans, M Forsyth, M Bell — M Simpson, J Cornforth (sub: S McGavin, 71), S Brown — K Scott, M Stallard

Referee: A Butler

YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS

Nationwide League

First division

BIRMINGHAM (0) 0 CHARLTON (0) 0
14,525

BRADFORD (0) 1 STOKE (0) 0
Pepper 49 13,579
Sent off: L Sigurdsson (Stoke) 60

GRIMSBY (1) 2 IPSWICH (1) 1
Mendonca 14 Mason 10
Lee 74 6,268
Sent off: J Scowcroft (Ipswich) 35

HUDDERSFLD (2) 2 SHEFF UTD (1) 1
Dalton 1 Sinnott 16 (og)
Cowan 18 14,551
Sent off: J Dyson (Huddersfield) 47
N Henry (Sheffield United) 54

NORWICH (1) 1 OXFORD UTD (1) 1
Eadie 9 Massey 31
14,644

OLDHAM (2) 5 SWINDON (0) 1
Richardson 12 (pen) Cowe 87
Barlow 22, 71, 75 5,699
Rush 80

PORT VALE (1) 2 TRANMERE (1) 1
Mills 36, 52 Irons 23
7,469

QPR (2) 2 WOLVES (1) 2
Spencer 13 Peacock 27 Goodman 39
17,376 Curle 70 (pen)

READING (1) 1 BARNSLEY (2) 2
Morley 27 (pen) Holsgrove 2 (og)
10,244 Liddell 16

POSTPONED: West Bromwich Albion v Crystal Palace (pools panel verdict — half-time: score draw, full-time: score draw)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	40	24	12	4	86	48	84
Barnsley	39	19	13	7	64	44	70
Wolves	40	19	9	12	57	43	66
Sheffield Utd	41	18	11	12	69	49	65
Port Vale	41	15	15	11	51	48	60
C Palace	38	16	11	11	68	39	59
Norwich	41	16	11	14	59	60	59
* Portsmouth	39	17	8	14	50	43	59
Ipswich	40	15	13	12	55	49	58
QPR	41	15	12	14	55	55	57
Stoke	40	16	9	15	46	50	57
Tranmere	40	15	11	14	54	50	56
Swindon	41	15	7	19	52	63	52
Oxford Utd	41	14	9	18	57	59	51
Charlton	39	14	9	16	46	54	51
Birmingham	39	13	12	14	43	45	51
Reading	40	13	11	16	49	57	50
Man City	38	14	8	16	48	49	50
Huddersfield	40	12	12	16	44	56	48
West Brom	40	11	14	15	61	66	47
Bradford	40	10	11	19	42	64	41
Grimsby	39	9	12	18	52	71	39
Oldham	39	9	11	19	44	53	38
* Southend	40	7	13	20	37	74	34

* not including last night's match

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Caersws 0 Barry Town 0; Cwmbran 1 Flint Town 2; Ebbw Vale 3 Caernarfon Town 1, Holywell 5 Porthmadog 0, Inter Cable-Tel 3 Conwy 0; Llansantffraid 1 Cemaes Bay 2; Ton Pentre 4 Bangor City 3, Welshpool 0 Aberystwyth 0.

Second division

BLACKPOOL (2) 4 ROTHERHAM (0) 1
Linighan 11 Bracken 88
Clarkson 39 5,524
Ellis 64
Barlow 77

BRISTOL ROV (1) 2 WREXHAM (0) 0
Skinner 15 6,225
Beadle 80
Sent off: B Carey (Wrexham) 44

BURY (0) 2 WYCOMBE (0) 0
Daws 58 5,714
Butler 82

CREWE (1) 1 PRESTON (0) 0
Adebola 41 4,407

GILLINGHAM (1) 1 BRENTFORD (1) 2
Onuora 22 Janney 36
7,361 Asaba 50

NOTTS CO (0) 0 PETERBORO (0) 0
3,848

PLYMOUTH (0) 0 WATFORD (0) 0
6,836

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bury	38	20	10	8	56	34	70
Brentford	39	18	13	8	54	38	67
Luton	37	18	10	9	60	39	64
Watford	38	15	17	6	39	27	62
Crewe	39	19	5	15	49	42	62
Stockport	35	17	10	8	50	36	61
Burnley	39	17	9	13	61	42	60
Millwall	39	16	11	12	49	47	59
Bristol City	39	16	9	14	56	45	57
Walsall	38	16	9	13	46	41	57
Blackpool	39	14	14	11	50	40	56
Wrexham	38	13	17	8	43	41	56
Gillingham	39	15	8	16	47	52	53
Bournemouth	40	14	11	15	37	38	53
Chesterfield	36	14	11	11	33	31	53
Preston	41	15	6	20	43	52	51
Bristol Rov	40	13	11	16	42	43	50
Plymouth	39	11	14	14	42	52	47
York	38	11	11	16	40	55	44
Shrewsbury	40	10	12	18	47	66	42
Wycombe	39	11	8	20	39	52	41
Peterborough	40	8	14	18	49	69	38
Rotherham	40	6	13	21	34	59	31
Notts County	40	5	13	22	27	52	28

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cork City 1 Finn Harps 0

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: First division: Bangor 2 Larne 0; Newry 0 Omagh Town 1.

WORLD CUP: European zone: Qualifying group five: Luxembourg 0 Israel 3 (in Luxembourg). Group six: Malta 0 Slovakia 2 (at Valletta).

Third division

CAMB UTD (0) 1 LINCOLN (0) 3
Kyd 52 Robertson 65 Stant 86
3,656 Craddock 73 (og)

COLCHESTER (0) 0 DARLINGTON (2) 3
3,604 Naylor 2, 12, 73 (pen)
Sent off: S Shaw (Darlington) 82

DONCASTER (1) 1 EXETER (0) 2
Schofield 40 Crowe 66, 76
2,457

FULHAM (1) 1 ROCHDALE (1) 1
Conroy 12 Gouck 36
7,866

HULL (1) 1 HEREFORD (0) 1
Greaves 6 Foster 50
2,818

L ORIENT (2) 2 CARLISLE (1) 1
McGleish 3, 11 Hopper 43
4,604

MANSFIELD (1) 1 HARTLEPOOL (0) 0
Sedgemore 40 2,229

SCARBOROUGH (2) 3 SCUNTHORPE (0) 2
Midgley 3 Brodie 43, 53 Jones 68
3,212 Forrester 85

SWANSEA (1) 2 CHESTER (0) 1
Molby 9 (pen) Alsford 59
Torpey 51 6,284

TORQUAY (1) 1 NORTHAMPTON (2) 2
Jack 28 Parrish 17 Sampson 19
2,335

WIGAN (0) 0 CARDIFF (0) 1
4,634 Haworth 56

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	41	23	8	10	77	49	77
Carlisle	40	22	11	7	60	36	77
Fulham	40	22	10	8	67	36	76
Swansea	41	20	7	14	56	46	67
Chester	41	18	15	10	48	39	63
Cardiff	39	18	6	15	46	46	60
Scarborough	41	15	14	12	62	63	59
Camb Utd	40	17	8	15	50	54	59
Northampton	40	16	10	14	60	43	58
Colchester	40	14	16	10	53	45	58
Lincoln	41	15	11	15	59	64	56
Mansfield	40	14	14	12	42	39	56
Scunthorpe	39	16	6	17	54	56	54
Hull	40	12	17	11	38	39	53
Rochdale	41	11	16	14	49	54	49
L Orient	41	12	12	17	42	50	48
Torquay	41	13	9	19	42	52	48
Barnet	39	11	15	13	37	39	48
Darlington	40	12	10	18	58	67	46
Exeter	41	12	10	19	42	55	46
Doncaster	40	12	8	20	43	59	44
Hereford	41	10	11	20	45	50	41
Hartlepool	41	11	8	22	42	60	41
† Brighton	40	10	8	22	48	67	36

† Brighton deducted two points

Vauxhall Conference

ALTRINCHAM (0) 0 GATESHEAD (0) 1
764 Bos 70
Sent off: S Harris (Altrincham) 85

BROMSGROVE (0) 2 BATH (1) 1
Mainwaring 46 Colbourne 10
Davey 90 (og) 716

FARNBOROUGH (3) 3 HALIFAX (0) 0
Boothe 17 Harlow 24 675
Wingfield 31

HEDNESFORD (1) 4 MACCLESFLD (0) 1
Lambert 13 Mason 48 Wood 83
(pen) 2,177
O'Connor 76, 85

MORECAMBE (1) 1 STEVENAGE (1) 2
Healy 24 Mison 7
1,438 Barrowcliff 73 (pen)

NORTHWICH (0) 0 STALYBRIDGE (0) 1
1,014 Hine 88

RUSHDEN & D (1) 2 HAYES (1) 2
Collins 36 Francis 7 Cox 48
Alford 85 3,134

SLOUGH (0) 2 DOVER (1) 2
Brazil 53 Haag 24 Adams 84
Abbott 68 842

SOUTHPORT (0) 0 TELFORD (0) 1
925 Purdie 77

WELLING (0) 1 KETTERING (0) 2
Dennis 65 (pen) Norman 58
954 Mustafa 56

WOKING (0) 2 KIDDRMNSTR (1) 1
Batty 52 (pen) Olney 2
Hay 72 3,420

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Macclesfield	37	24	7	6	63	25	79
Kidderminstr	38	23	7	8	76	37	76
Stevenage	34	21	6	7	70	40	69
Northwich	38	16	11	11	55	47	59
Farnborough	38	15	12	9	54	44	57
Woking	33	16	8	9	62	44	56
Hednesford	35	15	10	10	46	39	55
Morecambe	33	15	7	11	59	45	52
Telford	39	14	9	16	42	55	51
Kettering	38	14	8	16	47	50	50
Stalybridge	37	14	6	17	48	51	48
Hayes	38	11	12	15	49	51	45
Slough	38	11	12	15	58	61	45
Gateshead	36	12	9	15	51	57	45
Southport	33	12	8	13	38	45	44
Rushden & D	36	11	10	15	50	53	43
Dover	36	10	12	14	47	60	42
Halifax	34	11	8	15	44	62	41
Welling	36	10	9	17	40	53	39
Altrincham	37	8	11	18	40	62	35
Bath	36	8	9	19	40	72	33
Bromsgrove	38	9	5	24	38	62	32

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford 0 Boreham Wood 0; Chertsey Town 0 Kingstonian 3; Dulwich 2 Bromley 1; Enfield 1 Harrow Borough 0; Hendon 0 Aylesbury 3; Heybridge 4 Dagenham and Redbridge 1, Oxford City 0 Yeovil 2; Purfleet 2 Grays 4; St Albans 2 Hitchin 1; Sutton Utd 2 Carshalton 0. First division: Abingdon Town 0 Thame United 0, Aldershot Town 1 Basingstoke Town 0, Barton Rovers 1 Berkhamsted Town 0, Billericay Town 2 Canvey Island 0, Bognor Regis Town 2 Worthing 1, Chesham United 2 Wokingham Town 0; Hampton 3 Maidenhead United 4; Leyton Pennant 4 Tooting and Mitcham United 1; Walton and Hersham 1 Molesey 0; Whyteleafe 1 Croydon 0. Second division: Edgware Town 1 Wembley 1; Egham Town 0 Windsor and Eton 1, Hemel Hempstead 0 Chalfont St Peter 1, Horsham 3 Banstead Athletic 2; Hungerford Town 1 Bracknell Town 0; Leatherhead 3 Dorking 0; Leighton Town 1 Bedford Town 1, Tilbury 1 Barking 1; Ware 0 Collier Row and Romford 2; Witham Town 0 Wivenhoe Town 0. Third division: Epsom and Ewell 1 Lewes 1; Northwood 1 Harlow Town 0.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Baldock Tn 3 Sudbury Tn 2, Cambridge City 0 King's Lynn 2; Chelmsford 4 Gravesend and Northfleet 0; Cheltenham 1 Gloucester City 1; Crawley Town 0 Hastings 2; Dorchester 4 Salisbury 2; Newport AFC 3 Merthyr 1, Sittingbourne 4 Ashford Town 1. Midland division: Bedworth Utd 3 VS Rugby 1; Corby Town 0 Grantham Town 5, Dudley Town 3 Stafford Rangers 3, Evesham Utd 1 Redditch Utd 0; Hinckley Town 0 Ilkeston Town 2, Paget Rangers 0 Sutton Coldfield Town 1, Rothwell Town 2 Raunds Town 2. Southern division: Cinderford Town 1 Forest Green 3; Cirencester Town 2 Yate Town 0, Clevedon Town 0 Weston-super-Mare 0; Dartford 1 Erith and Belvedere 0 Fisher Athletic London 1 Tonbridge Angels 2, Fleet Town 1 Buckingham Town 1; Havant Town 1 Bashley 1, Newport IoW 2 Weymouth 1; St Leonards 2 Margate 2; Waterlooville 1 Fareham Town 0; Witney Town 2 Trowbridge Town 1

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Alfreton Town 1 Boston Utd 2; Barrow 1 Hyde Utd 1; Colwyn Bay 3 Leek Town 1, Frickley 1 Emley 2, Marine 1 Guiseley 2; Runcorn 1 Knowsley 0, Winsford Utd 1 Witton Albion 1. First division: Ashton United 4 Curzon Ashton 0; Eastwood Town 2 Harrogate Town 0, Farsley Celtic 1 Bradford PA 0; Great Harwood Town 4 Atherton LR 1; Radcliffe Borough 0 Leigh 1; Stocksbridge PS 2 Lincoln United 1, Whitley Bay 0 Gretna 1, Workington 0 Warrington Town 0

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bierley Hill Town 2 Cradley Town 1, Ludlow Town 3 Wolverhampton Casuals 1; Malvern Town 1 Stourport Swifts 2; Stafford Town 1 Westfields 0; Walsall Wood 0 Darlaston 0; Wednesfield 5 Tividale 0; Wolverhampton United 0 Ettingshall Ht 2

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford Town 3 Cobham 1; Corinthian-Casuals 5 Cranleigh 1; Farnham Town 3 Cove 0; Godalming and Guildford 0 Bedfont 1; Hartley Wintney 2 Ash Utd 2; Merstham 0 Chipstead 2; Netherne 2 Raynes Park Vale 0; Sandhurst Town 1 Reading Town 2; Viking Sports 1 Westfield 1, Walton Casuals 0 Feltham 3

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Guisborough Town 2 Whitby Town 4, Murton 1 Durham City 2; RTM Newcastle 2 Consett 0; Dunston Federation 1 Bedlington Terriers 2.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell 4 Hinckley Athletic 0; Blakenall 1 Rushall Olympic 2, Boldmere St Michaels 0 West Midlands Police 0; Chasetown 1 Stapenhill 1; Halesowen Harriers 2 Oldbury United 2; Pelsall Villa 1 Bloxwich Town 3; Rocester 1 Knypersley Victoria 3; Sandwell Borough 1 Willenhall Town 1, Shifnal Town 2 Bridgnorth Town 4; Stratford Town 2 Pershore Town 2

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare 0 Hucknall Town 2, Arnold Town 0 Brigg Town 1, Hatfield Main 0 North Ferriby United 4, Ossett Albion 5 Liversedge 1, Pontefract Cols 0 Hallam 2; Pickering Town 2 Ashfield United 1; Selby Town 1 Denaby United 1; Thackley 0 Belper Town 1

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Rovers 3 Darwen 1; Burscough 0 Clitheroe 1; Eastwood Hanley 4 Mossley 1; Glossop North End 1 Chadderton 1, Maine Road 2 St Helens Town 1; Nantwich Town 2 Bootle 2; Prescot Cables 1 Salford City 0, Rossendale United 1 Vauxhall GM 0

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bridgwater Town 1 Bridport 1, Elmore 2 Barnstaple Town 1, Mangotsfield United 5 Chippenham Town 2, Taunton Town 6 Chard Town 0; Tiverton Town 3 Torrington 1.

Sunday's late results

SPANISH LEAGUE: Tenerife 1 Real Madrid 1

FRENCH CUP: Quarter-final: Clermont-Ferrand 1 Nice 2 (aet)

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group five: Luxembourg 0 Israel 5.

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
2	2	3	1	3	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	3	2	3	1	2	2	1	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
2	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1

FORECAST: Half-time: No claims required. Forecast is good: nine score draws and 13 no-score draws. Full time: Claims for 23 and 24pts, forecast is very good: eight score draws and four no-score draws.

Kidderminster fail to sustain promise

Woking 2
Kidderminster Harriers .. 1

By Walter Gammie

FOR one happy moment, life looked good for Kidderminster Harriers in the sunshine at Kingfield yesterday. They were 1-0 up against Woking and news filtered through that Macclesfield Town had conceded a second goal on their way to a 4-1 defeat at Hednesford Town.

Two minutes later, Woking equalised and, when they went on to craft a fine winner, Kidderminster's hopes of clinching the Vauxhall Conference diminished, even though the scale of Macclesfield's defeat nudged the goal difference in Kidderminster's favour. With only four matches left and a three-point margin to make up on Macclesfield, who have a match in hand, time is running out.

"I told the players beforehand that you don't win championships, you lose them," Graham Allner, the Kidderminster manager, said afterwards. "It's all about how you handle the pressure. We'd handled it pretty well up to half-time, but, in the second half, we lost our discipline."

It had certainly looked bright for Kidderminster when Olney put them in front from Doherty's corner in the second minute. Brown then rescued his goalkeeper when he was beaten by a powerful Olney header, but the striker left the field after 30 minutes, with a ripped ear, and Kidderminster played out the half with ten men.

By that time, Woking had been sparked out of their early lethargy by the eager running of Thompson, who played in Wye to send over a flashing cross that Barber pawed away from the waiting Jackson.

In the second half, the mood spread and Woking played some of the short-passing football that won admiration during their FA Cup run, has earned them a place in the FA Umbro Trophy semi-finals but has flickered too fitfully in their league campaign.

It brought a penalty in the 52nd minute, when Bignot handled Steele's cross. With Walker injured, up stepped Batty, the goalkeeper, who could at least have handed his cap to the referee before driving the ball, clean and true, to Barber's left.

A weaving run and carefully pushed pass by Foster allowed Hay to sweep in Woking's second in the 72nd minute. Kidderminster's late rally amounted to little. The fluency and confidence had gone and with them, perhaps, the hopes of that elusive place in the Nationwide League.

WOKING: (5-3-2) L Batty — D Timothy, K Brown, T Howard, S Foster, R Taylor — A Ellis, S Wye, S Thompson — J Jackson (sub: D Hay, 59min), S Steele.

KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS: (4-3-3). F Barber — M Bignot, C Brindley, M Weir, S Prindiville — K Casey, M Yates, P Webb — N Doherty, (sub: M Dearlove, 75), I Olney, L Hughes

Referee: J Pettit

RUGBY LEAGUE: VAGANA TRY HAT-TRICK INSPIRES WARRINGTON TO REMARKABLE WIN OVER WIGAN

Cullen and Murphy pull off double act

Warrington Wolves	35
Wigan Warriors	24

By Christopher Irvine

ALEX MURPHY has no intention of a full-time return to coaching at 57. For one thing, the nerves could not take it. Before an outstanding win by Warrington in an epic Stones Super League encounter yesterday, he joked that it would be the shortest appointment in history. No wonder he was beaming afterwards.

Murphy, the club's football executive, and Paul Cullen, the assistant coach, took joint temporary charge of the coaching role 48 hours before, when John Dorahy resigned after four successive defeats. For all that Wigan had been beaten last Friday by St Helens, facing them had the look of unnecessary cruelty. It is amazing what a reminder of pride in performance can bring about and Wigan were soundly beaten, despite a late comeback.

The afternoon at Wilderspool was pure theatre. Murphy, who last coached Warrington 19 years ago, was his familiar, finger-jabbing self in the dug-out. He shook the hand of each of his players as they walked off at half-time, 22-4 ahead, before suffering the agonies of the home supporters as Wigan responded with three quick tries.

With five minutes left, Kelly Shelford dropped a goal to calm nerves and, by the time Penny waltzed clear in the last minutes, Murphy was taking the plaudits. The crowd rose at the end to him and Cullen, who took the key roles of selecting and drilling the team.

Results and tables 32

Warrington hope to announce Dorahy's successor this week. Whoever takes over now knows that far from the hapless, disjointed outfit, seen in three opening Super League defeats, Warrington have commitment and skillful individuals.

Cullen, who is injured, said: "It was a guts effort and honesty was written all the way through it." Murphy was content, for once, to take a back seat in the after-match press conference, but his personal philosophy about pride in a team jersey was writ large.

Of three tries by Nigel Vagana, one of several expensive foreign imports, who, until yesterday, had offered very little, Murphy said: "One or two players produced their form, like Vagana. I was proud of the players and especially of Paul Cullen. Until Saturday, remember, he was the Alliance coach."

Tatupu weaves his way through the shattered Wigan defence to score an impressive try for Warrington

It was Warrington's first home defeat of Wigan in a decade and the first time since the Dorahy reign at Central Park, in 1994, that Wigan had lost successive matches. "Easter has been a disaster for us," Eric Hughes, Wigan's coach said. "We know we've got problems and that we have to rebuild."

Were Wigan to lose Andy Farrell for any length of time, they would be in serious trouble. The captain kept his head while around him others were losing theirs. Too many good players have gone, while inadequate or inexperienced ones have taken their place, for Wigan to be a force this year.

Three of Wigan's five tries, including the first by Ellison, were created by kicks, an area Warrington must work on, but it was the remarkable composure at scrum half of John Duffy, 16, and the strong running of the pack, in which Tatupu and Sculthorpe were outstanding, that put down the foundations of a famous victory.

Vagana and Tatupu, in a couple of defence-splitting charges, scored direct from Wigan penalties. Vagana's second was an 80-metre interception of a pass by Long, and when Murray picked up in an off-side position, Duffy's excellent pass searched out Shelford for a try before the break.

Even the Warrington wolf mascot was looking more animated. Wigan were again their own worst enemies, as Radlinski failed to find touch with a simple kick and Vagana eluded Tallec for his hat-trick. Roper's fifth goal gave Warrington an apparently unassailable 30-8 lead, until three Wigan tries in seven minutes by Murdock, Ellison and Radlinski reminded Murphy of the perils of being a coach. No one was happier than him to see Shelford's dropped goal sail over and Penny's last-minute try.

SCORERS: Warrington: Tries: Vagana (3), Tatupu, Shelford, Penny. Goals: Roper (5). Dropped goal: Shelford. Wigan: Tries: Ellison (2), A Johnson, Murdock, Radlinski. Goals: Farrell (2).

WARRINGTON WOLVES: L Penny; R Henare, J Roper, N Vagana, M Forster; K Shelford, J Duffy; W Stevens, P Hulme, G Chambers, T Tatupu, G Mann, P Sculthorpe. Substitutes: C Rudd, G Davies, P Wingfield, M Carney.

WIGAN WARRIORS: D Murray; J Robinson, A Johnson, K Radlinski, D Ellison; S Long, A Smith; N Cowie, M Cassidy, T O'Connor, S Haughton, G Tallec, A Farrell. Substitutes: P Johnson, C Murdock, M Hall, S Holgate

Referee: R Smith (Castleford).

Leopards march to crown in double time

Nicholas Harling on how the bad boys of basketball reached maturity

The nature of the beast was to do things the hard way, so it was entirely appropriate that when the Leopards captured the Budweiser League championship on Sunday, they did so by making a stirring recovery in the London Arena. Not for nothing are the players coached by Billy Mims known as "The Comeback Kids"; from 19 points adrift, they fought back to defeat Derby Storm and complete a league and National Cup double that few would have predicted last September.

The surprise was that anyone should have been surprised, for this, after all, was the way that the team had performed all season, as London Towers, the deposed champions, will testify. It was when the Towers relinquished a 20-point advantage last month that the Leopards' title claims were first taken seriously. But when, on Saturday, in the potential title-decider, they found themselves in the unfamiliar position of leading by 11 and then 12 points against Birmingham Bullets, the Leopards almost did not know what to do and eventually had to struggle for a hard-earned win that put the Bullets out of contention.

For a team low on popularity, adversity has provided the most ready challenge. It has been thus since the days three years ago when the club's first two Budweiser League fixtures were played without either Mims in charge or his two American players, Henri Abrams and Robert Youngblood, on court. The trio were forced to remain in Ireland, while work permits were processed.

Abrams was soon released, but Youngblood, the fiery rebounder from Alabama, has stayed to contribute crucially to the triumphs of the team. The integration of Youngblood with this season's recruits — Eric Burks, Tim Davis, John Tresvant and the free-scoring John White — led to an instant chemistry that has proved invaluable.

Between them, those Americans and Ronnie Baker, the English playmaker with the twinkling hands and feet, have retained an aggressive, offensive style that brings an immediate retort from Mims when it is compared with American streetball.

"People who say that don't understand the finer points of basketball," he said, "but if people want to say it's streetball, it is still good enough to win two titles. We don't mind being known as the bad boys of English basketball. If people push us, we push back. If they talk trash, we talk back. But we're also the most talented and entertaining side."

Baker is the only player to have survived the wreckage of the defunct Guildford Kings, from which Ed Simons, the chairman of Allied Entertainments, and Harvey Goldsmith, his chief executive, founded the Leopards. "Some sort of phoenix was raised," Simons said, recalling his meeting with the Spectacle Management Group, who wanted a basketball team to play in the London Arena. "They said: 'Come and play here.'"

*Still not fully convinced or, they will readily admit, that knowledgeable about the sport, Simons and Goldsmith were then acquainted with Harry and Mike Wrublewski, the Australian owners of Birmingham Bullets. "They walked into the office one day and started preaching the gospel of basketball. They were so infectious. We finally understood what it would mean in terms of time and effort."

Simons is not prepared to divulge details of the financial package, only that "it was a lot of money, a significant investment. It was enough for me to devote a substantial part of my working day to make it work.

"For the first two years, we wanted to learn the basics. As long as were in a respectable position, were entertaining and starting to build an audience, I felt we could do a job. This year, we felt we could win a trophy. Winning two is a bonus."

☐ Spectators will be admitted to the London Arena for £1 on Thursday, when the Leopards will receive the Budweiser League Trophy before their final League game against Hemel and Watford Royals.

Final table

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Leopards	35	27	8	3270	3089	54
Birmingham	34	25	9	3031	2847	50
London	34	25	9	2990	2732	50
Chester	35	24	11	3035	2877	48
Sheffield	33	24	9	2933	2582	48
Manchester	34	20	14	2696	2553	40
Newcastle	35	20	15	3119	3024	40
Derby	35	14	21	3086	3109	28
Leicester	34	14	20	3002	2983	28
Thames Vall	34	13	21	3066	3109	26
Worthing	34	10	24	2822	3046	20
C Palace	36	5	31	2708	3116	10
Hemel and W	33	2	31	2783	3473	4

Salford leave Paris to rue early loss of Evans

Salford Reds	27
Paris Saint-Germain	26

By a Correspondent

HAD David Campbell, the referee, been able to call up a video replay of the tackle that caused him to send off Evans, the Paris centre, after 15 minutes at The Willows yesterday, this result might well have been reversed. As it was, a dropped goal by Blakeley, ten minutes from time, enabled Salford to maintain their 100 per cent Stones Super League record after they had been outscored by five tries to four.

Evans appeared to have committed a dangerously high tackle on McAvoy, but a second viewing on the giant television screen suggested that it was nothing of the sort.

The referee was able to call for a video replay before making a decision on the legitimacy of Naylor's second-half "try" for Salford and it took eight replays to convince the official that the centre had not applied proper downward pressure after a 30-yard break.

Paris, who were convinced that the day would have been theirs with a full complement throughout, at least had a Frenchman on board to share in their sufferings; Didier Cabestany, albeit as a substitute, finally broke the Antipodean monopoly on the team's line-up after almost 3½ games.

Until and even after Evans's dismissal, Paris swarmed all over Salford, showing up Rogers' limitations under the high ball. A bad miss almost let in Bird and, minutes later, another saw Bergman scoot over.

With O'Donnell and Martin probing for openings, which Bergman in particular was quick to exploit, Paris shrugged off Evans's departure when the wing cut through to send Bird over. Robinson's second goal gave Paris a deserved 12-0 lead.

By half-time, though, Salford had taken charge. Naylor ended a Watson-inspired counter attack with a try and, when Rogers broke from deep inside his own half, Paris were stretched to breaking point on the left before Blakeley's floated pass allowed Naylor to put Sini over.

Three Blakeley goals gave Salford a two-point advantage, but further tries by Bird and Bergman — one after another Rogers gaffe — swung the game back in Paris's favour. Then Rogers, the villain thus far, became a hero. He twice breached the Paris defence in a super-charged spell and, despite Bergman's late score for a worthy hat-trick, further Blakeley goals kept Salford just ahead.

SCORERS: Salford: Tries: Rogers (2), Naylor, Sini. Goals: Blakeley (5) Dropped goal: Blakeley. Paris Saint-Germain: Tries: Bergman (3), Bird (2). Goals: Robinson (3).

SALFORD REDS: D Rogers; F Sini, S Martin, S Naylor, N McAvoy; S Blakeley, I Watson; A Platt, P Edwards, C Eccles, P Forber, J Cartwright, D Hulme. Substitutes: L Savelio, A Burgess, P Southern, E Faimalo.

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN: N Hyde; D Bird, P Evans, P Bergman, A Wall; J Robinson, J Martin; J Sands, D O'Donnell, T Priddle, W Sing, M Hogue, T Bellamy. Substitutes: J Taylor, D Lomax, J Durkin, D Cabestany.

Referee: D Campbell (Widnes)

Eagles well beaten

ST HELENS, the Super League champions, gave a masterful first-half display in overwhelming Sheffield Eagles 32-12 yesterday. Alan Hunte, the centre, scored a hat-trick in the first 24 minutes, with Pinkney and Newlove also getting tries before half-time. Briers, the scrum half deputising for Goulding, kicked four goals.

Hull and Huddersfield both achieved victories away from home to remain joint-top of the first division, while Rochdale's heavy defeat at Hunslet allowed Carlisle to join them at the head of the second division.

CRICKET

Waugh century great leveller

A BRILLIANT, unbeaten 115 from Mark Waugh led Australia to a seven-wicket victory over South Africa in Port Elizabeth yesterday in the second of seven one-day internationals. Waugh's tenth one-day century levelled the series after South Africa's equally emphatic six-wicket win on Saturday and gave Australia a boost after 13 defeats in their last 19 one-day matches.

Needing 222 to win, Waugh added 107 with his twin brother, Steve, who scored 50 not out, after Pat Symcox, the off-spinner, had taken two wickets in two balls. Waugh's innings came in 125 balls, with eight boundaries and three sixes. His brother's half-century came from 52 balls with five fours and a six.

Mark Taylor's slump continued with an innings of 17. The captain's dismissal, caught at slip, was almost a relief. Symcox then had Law caught at mid-wicket for 33 and Warne, put in at No 4, leg-before first ball.

Taylor had put South Africa in on a green pitch under overcast skies and Dale, the Queensland fast bowler, in only his second game, reduced the home side to 16 for three in eight overs. He had Koen caught at second slip for a duck. Bacher caught at mid-off for three and then bowled Cullinan for a duck.

However, Kallis and Rhodes added 104 for the fourth wicket before Rhodes drove a catch to mid-on to depart for 57. Kallis and Cronje, who scored 31, added another 61 for the fifth wicket, but both were bowled by Gillespie in the 45th over. Kallis's 82 came from 118 balls with five fours and a six.

☐ Kenya, the favourites, join Scotland, Denmark and Canada in one quarter-final group of the ICC Trophy tournament, which resumes in Kuala Lumpur today after a rest day. Bangladesh, Holland, Ireland and Hong Kong are in the second group.

FIXTURES: Today: Group E: Kenya v Canada; Scotland v Denmark; Group F: Bangladesh v Hong Kong; Holland v Ireland. Tomorrow: Group E: Kenya v Denmark; Scotland v Canada. Group F: Bangladesh v Ireland; Holland v Hong Kong. Friday: Group E: Kenya v Scotland; Denmark v Canada; Group F: Bangladesh v Holland; Ireland v Hong Kong.

Scoreboard, page 32

TENNIS: AMERICANS NONPLUSSED BY AUSTRIAN'S UNEXPECTED TRIUMPH ON ALIEN SURFACE

Muster displays more than mere muscle

Muster: determined

From Alix Ramsay in Key Biscayne

FOR A man who claims not to care what other people think, Thomas Muster has a happy knack of making people sit up and take notice of him. On Sunday, he overpowered Sergi Bruguera in the final of the Lipton Championships, the biggest tournament in the United States outside the US Open and the tournament the Americans like to think of as the fifth grand-slam event.

It was the Austrian's second hard-court title of the year and, given the strength of the field, an impressive result for a man some notable American players have disregarded as merely a clay-court pounder. Sure enough, when Muster gets to grips with the European red stuff, he feels secure. Over the past two years, few have managed to beat him on clay — he has won 111 matches and lost just five — but there is more to Muster than that.

On Sunday, in temperatures of 106F, he simply wore Bruguera down. "I think it was just about taking the pain out there," he said. "I was mentally better and he just went down and down. If you're down, you know how far you have to go to win the match and, in this heat, it's big." And therein lies the key to Muster — he refuses to be beaten.

Standing 5ft 11in in his socks, Muster is not the biggest of players on the circuit. Lacking a killer service and a natural touch at the net, he knows that he lacks some of the instinctive gifts of his rivals. What Muster has in abundance, though, is determination. He is undoubtedly one of the fittest players, pushing himself every day because he knows that he has to in order to give himself a chance against the likes of Sampras or Becker. For this, he is dismissed as all muscle and no talent.

He has fought his way back from an injury that could have ended his career and has pushed himself to his physical limit on court, collapsing after a match and coming back to win again. For this he is dismissed as a machine. He grunts and curses, he argues and battles — and for this he is dismissed as an animal on court.

When finally he became the world No 1 last year, after winning 12 titles, all but one of them on clay, during the previous 12 months, the top American players shrugged their shoulders and suggested that Muster had never won much on any other surface, so why should he deserve the top ranking.

Off court, it seems, Muster can never win, but, on court on Sunday, he made his point. "To have two European players playing this final on this American surface, it's great," he said. "I don't want to mention any names, but I saw a really long face out there today, really upset. That's the biggest justice. I like it."

Good year not guaranteed as leading tyre makers look to laurels

David Miller on the developing third duel for supremacy in Formula One

Panis: happy with tyres

The Brazilian Grand Prix here at Interlagos was accompanied by the smell of burning rubber — in one or two of the VIP enclosures. To the rivalry for the drivers' and constructors' championship titles is being added the tyre manufacturers' duel.

Goodyear, the traditional supplier to motor racing, is under pressure from Bridgestone, the Japanese parent company of Firestone. Despite outward appearances, the minority of teams using Bridgestone on Sunday were more satisfied, specifically regarding tyre performance, than their rivals.

Within minutes of Jacques Villeneuve having received the chequered flag in his Williams-Renault, Goodyear had rushed out a public relations statement acclaiming its 346th Formula One win. Its complacency has clearly been rattled by the challenge this season from Bridgestone.

"First and second," the release trumpeted, Gerhard Berger's Benetton-Renault in second place also being Goodyear-shod — as were nine of the top ten and 13 of the 18 finishers. Although not entering Formula One until 1965, Goodyear's boast is to have won more races than all competitors combined since the championship began in 1950.

The evidence that began to emerge after the race was less convincing. Olivier Panis, third in Alain Prost's Mugen-Honda, reported that the Bridgestone tyres were superlative. "They were brilliant," Panis said. "They maintained their grip steadily, even when the weight of the car decreased with the consumption of fuel. The wear was even, not like Goodyear, which decreases sharply."

Prost was himself supremely skilled in preserving wearing tyres to avoid pit changes late in a race. Panis and his colleague, Shinji Nakano, only made one stop, compared with two by all the leading teams on Goodyear — Williams, Ferrari, Benetton and McLaren.

Also on Bridgestone was the Arrows team. Damon Hill, the defending champion, who was dismissed by Williams, was lying fourth until his Yamaha engine started to lose drive in mid-race and had dropped to eleventh when the engine eventually caught fire three laps from the end.

Yet John Walton, the Arrows team manager, made the revelation that one set of tyres could have lasted the whole race. This might have been sufficient, say, to give Panis victory, eliminating his 15.8sec margin behind Villeneuve at the finish.

"Damon's tyres could definitely have lasted the race," Walton said, "though there was some difficulty maintaining the tyre temperature as the fuel load dropped." Panis's Honda had apparently been less affected by temperature fluctuation, possibly because of a different set-up in suspension. "I think the tyres could have lasted," Panis said.

Goodyear drivers, in contrast, raised many queries and Michael Schumacher was one of those less than happy. "I was hoping for better than fifth," Schumacher said. "Just as I expected, our tyres did not maintain their performance level over the whole race. I had a job getting past Hill as his tyres were still in top condition. This lost me time, which probably cost me one or two places ... our problem at the moment is lack of mechanical grip."

Jean Todt, Ferrari's director, said: "Our decision to use hard tyres did not bring the advantage we expected."

This opinion was echoed in the McLaren camp. Mika Hakkinen, who finished fourth, was also dissatisfied. "While my car was quite good at the beginning," Hakkinen said, "my tyres suddenly went off and I lost a lot of grip. Berger overtook me, so after that it was a question of trying to cope as best I could with a deteriorating tyre situation."

Ron Dennis, head of McLaren, said: "It was interesting to see how the cooler weather played into the hands of the Bridgestone runners. It could have been better, but at least we are still leading both championships."

So the circus moves on to Argentina and more millions will be spent in this fantasy world. There was something grotesque in this event at Interlagos, observing drivers being paid kings' ransoms in pursuit of achievement that is irrelevant to the mass of humanity, while only a few hundred metres away there are slum families living in cardboard homes over open sewers.

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RUGBY UNION

Fixtures pile-up may blunt ambition

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

RICHARD BEST, living up to his name on what was not the greatest of days for Harlequins, the club where he is director of rugby, fell back on the old truism after watching his players lose to Sale in the Pilkington Cup on Saturday. "If you can draw a positive from this, it gives us the opportunity to focus on the league, in which we have tended not to fulfil our ambitions," Best said.

Yet Harlequins are only one among many in the final month of a season that concludes with a riot of activity and will leave players feeling distinctly jaded as they prepare to embark with the British Isles side and various national touring teams. They may not be involved in the chase for the Courage Clubs Championship title, but the scrap is now on for a top-four placing and the premier European competition next season.

A line can now effectively be drawn between the top six and the bottom six clubs in the first division: Northampton and Gloucester may entertain mathematical thoughts of the Heineken Cup, but the two clubs immediately in front of them, Saracens and Sale, have games in hand and must have a better prospect of being in the leading quartet.

Yet there will still be some strange results during April: a glance at the remaining fixtures indicate just how demanding the run-in will be for Wasps, for example. Starting at Leicester tomorrow night, the league leaders finish against the other top-five clubs and Northampton (who have beaten Bath and Leicester at Franklin's Gardens this season); balanced against that is the fact that, after this week, they do have some chance to draw breath between games because they have only six fixtures left.

Leicester, Saracens and Sale all have eight and who can tell whether injury may not remove a key player — injury provoked as much as anything by fatigue. For the two clubs involved in the cup final, Leicester and Sale, the problem is even greater; no wonder Bob Dwyer, the Leicester coach, has complained that success brings its own penalties.

Bearing in mind that next season begins on August 16 and that pre-season training will start a month earlier, some players will endure wall-to-wall rugby in 1997. That does not sit well with a physical-contact sport; professional era or not, some time must be built in to ensure that the players who appear most frequently in the shop window have a decent break.

As luck would have it, Sale — in many ways the team of the season already — finish with a double strike: Leicester at Heywood Road in the league on May 3 and in the cup final at Twickenham a week later. The teams they field on those two occasions will depend upon whether they still have a goal to go for in the league; if a top-four place is no longer attainable, it would be a chance to rest players before their first visit to Twickenham.

Yet they must be conscious of broader responsibilities. The title chase could go to the wire and if Leicester arrive needing victory, or even an improved points differential, to overhaul, say, Wasps or Bath, those clubs would look to Sale to field their most competitive XV.

Sale could win the domestic cup and yet fail to qualify for the Heineken Cup. That is a situation that may need examination — in France, for example, the winners of the du Manoir knockout competition qualify for the Heineken Cup alongside the finalists in the French club championship and Brive, seeded through as winners.

However, Best takes the view that Europe's premier competition should go to those who sustain the most consistent season: "The league competition is the most convincing way of showing you have a team which is worthy of Europe," he said. "In the cup, upsets can happen, but it would be disappointing for a team to work itself into the top four and find nothing to show for it."

TOP SIX

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wasps	16	14	0	2	516	301	28
Bath	15	11	0	4	562	288	22
Leicester	14	11	0	3	435	214	22
Harlequins	15	10	0	5	572	309	20
Saracens	14	9	1	4	381	279	19
Sale	14	8	1	5	386	296	17

Remaining fixtures

WASPS: April: 2: v Leicester (a); 8: v Bath (h); 12: v Saracens (a); 20: v Sale (h); 26: v Northampton (a). May: 3: v Harlequins (a).
BATH: April: 2: v Sale (a); 8: v Wasps (a); 12: v Leicester (h), 19: v Orrell (h); 26: v Sale (h); 30: v Gloucester (h). May: 3: v Saracens (a).
LEICESTER: April: 2: v Wasps (h); 5: v Orrell (h); 8: v Gloucester (a); 12: v Bath (a); 16: v London Irish (a); 19: v Saracens (h); 26: v Harlequins (h). May: 3: v Sale (a).
HARLEQUINS: April: 5: v London Irish (a); 9: v Saracens (h); 15: v Bristol (h); 19: v Gloucester (a); 26: v Leicester (a); 30: v Northampton (h). May: 3: v Wasps (h).
SARACENS: April: 5: v Gloucester (a); 9: v Harlequins (a); 12: v Wasps (h), 15: v Sale (a); 19: v Leicester (a); 26: v Orrell (a); 30: v London Irish (h). May: 3: v Bath (h).
SALE: April: 2: v Bath (h); 5: v West Hartlepool (a), 12: v Gloucester (h); 15: v Saracens (h); 20: v Wasps (a); 29: v London Irish (h); 26: v Bath (a). May: 3: v Leicester (h)

Scottish reluctant to turn the screw

London Scottish 34
Wakefield 3

By David Hands

THE season has slipped away from London Scottish and Wakefield. Six months ago, the Scottish looked down on the rest of the second division in the Courage Clubs Championship, but it would not, could not last and, yesterday, they nestled comfortably with Wakefield in mid-table.

Their victory at the Athletic Ground, by a margin that might well have been more decisive but for some brave, last-ditch tackling, created a similar gap to that which exists in the first division. The Scottish have had some investment this season and cling to the coat tails of the wealthier clubs above them; Wakefield have only their own efforts to sustain them and looked a little threadbare.

That may yet change. Last week, they agreed a ground-sharing scheme with Wakefield Trinity rugby league club at Durkar and entertain hopes of attracting substantial sponsorship as a result.

Wakefield retained unpleasant memories of the September game with the Scottish, when they squandered a 21-0 lead and lost 30-27. In bright spring sunshine, however, they were seldom in a position to extract revenge; injuries sustained in the heavy defeat by Moseley on Saturday had taken their toll.

For Scottish, the passing years still found Holmes as industrious as ever, with willing allies in Tarbuck and the raw-boned Hunter, normally a flanker but doing duty at lock. The main surprise was that, with so much territory and ample possession, they scored only three tries, the last of them from Smith in injury-time.

Steele, one of the most effective kickers in the second division, moved Scottish smoothly into a nine-point lead with three penalties, but Wakefield looked to have weathered the storm when Scully stopped Smith in the corner and Hunter's drive for the line was held.

A sloppy tap-back from the lineout, however, allowed Holmes to pounce and, though Jackson retrieved three points with his third penalty attempt, Eriksson and Holmes sent Hunter steaming to the line, Steele's conversion giving Scottish a 23-3 interval lead.

Two further kicks from Steele increased the advantage and, though Johnstone was held in one corner, Scottish finished happily when Millard burst to the short side of a ruck and Smith cut back for the final try.

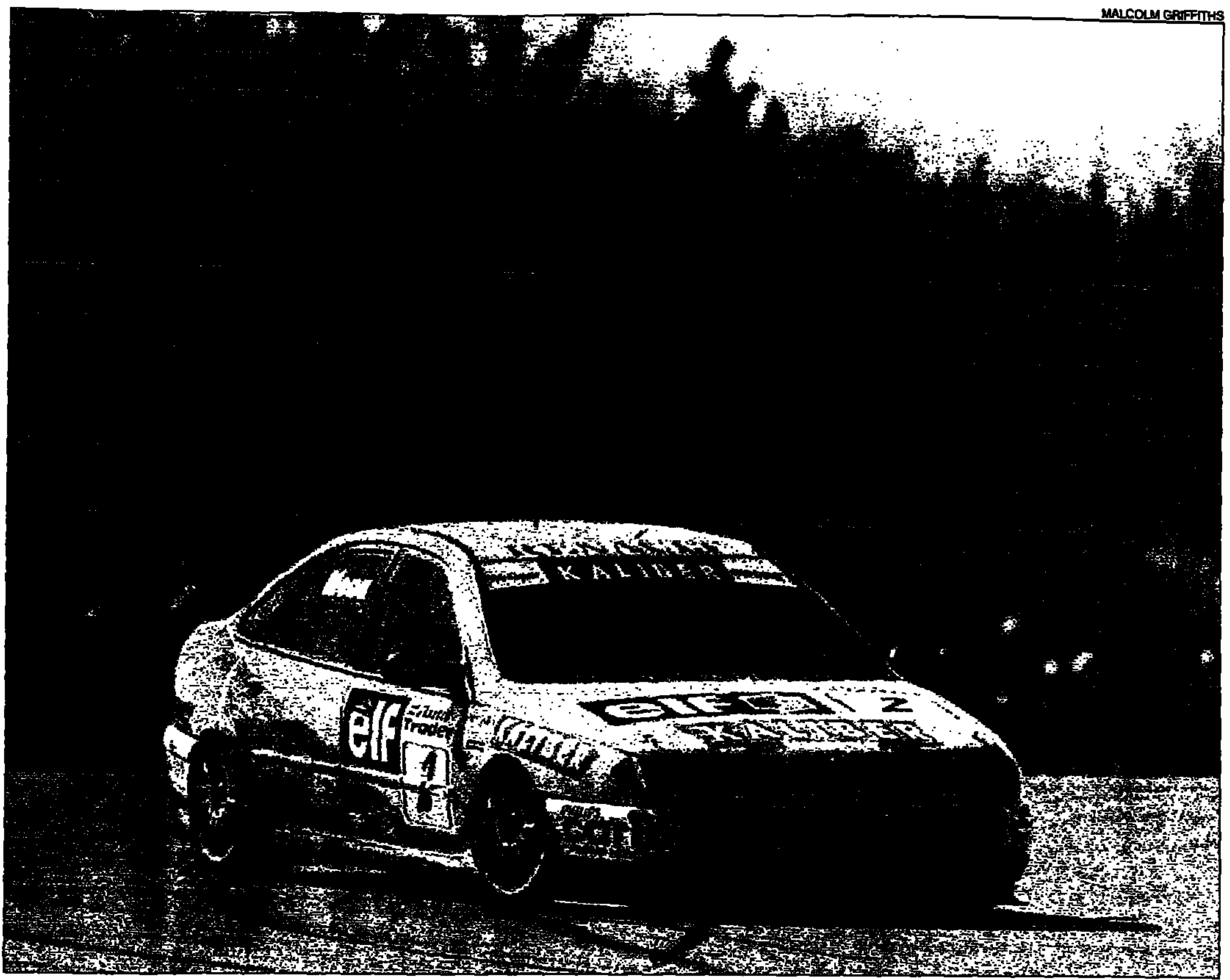
SCORERS: London Scottish: Tries: Holmes, Hunter, Smith. Conversions: Steele (2). Penalty goals: Steele (5). Wakefield: Penalty goal: Jackson.

LONDON SCOTTISH: N Robinson, K Milligan, M Sly, R Eriksson, C Smith; J Steele, D Millard, P Johnstone, I Mackenzie, P Burnell, M Duthie, R Hunter, E Jones, S Holmes, C Tarbuck. Eriksson replaced by G Thompson (48min); Hunter replaced by A Jackson (75).

WAKEFIELD: P Massey; A McClarron, I Wynn, D Shelford, R Thompson; M Jackson, D Scully; P Lancaster, T Garnett, R Szabo, P Stewart, S Croft, A Bailey, S Dykes; G Wilson. McClarron replaced by J Bartle (29); Szabo replaced by R Latham (65); Wilson replaced by D Hardcastle (72). Jackson replaced by I Shuttleworth (72).

Referee: D Grashoff (East Midlands)

MALCOLM GRIFFITHS



The Renault Laguna driven by Menu dominated the opening two British Touring Car Championship races at Donington Park yesterday

Menu serves up warning to title rivals

By Mark Fogarty

ALAIN MENU had so much in hand on his way to a clean sweep of the opening two rounds of the Auto Trader British Touring Car Championship at Donington Park yesterday that he was able to tease the man most likely to rival him for this year's title.

Menu had such a withering advantage in his Renault Laguna that he slowed to what seemed like a crawl in the closing stages of the second race and still beat Rickard Rydell, in the Volvo S40.

His taunt raised and then dashed the hopes of Rydell, who reduced a deficit of 11sec with three laps remaining to just 2.3sec at the finish.

At first it seemed that Menu's Williams-run Renault had suffered a debilitating engine problem, an explanation for his drastically reduced pace made plausible by the retirement of Jason Plato, his team-mate, a few laps earlier. Afterwards, however, the Swiss driver admitted that he had been toying with Rydell.

"I just backed off," Menu said. "I had a good lead so I could back off a lot and just take it easy. The team showed me a pit board saying 'Easy' and easy to me is backing off a lot."

Rydell, of Sweden, recovered from a bad start, which dropped him from fourth to sixth place, to battle his way into a distant second place on the seventh of 18 laps. Although enticed into a furious pursuit over the final three laps, Rydell later acknowledged Menu's ruse. "He had everything under control," Rydell said. "He was more than 10sec in front and could just run his own race. He didn't have to push in the last few laps."

Menu, runner-up in the championship for the past three years, won both races with such imperious ease that he confirmed his pre-season favouritism to finally win the title this year. His fast start, which in recent years has been the hallmark of the eventual champion, completes the missing link in Menu's previous campaigns.

"It's the first year that the Williams-Renault team is ready from the first meeting," he said. "In the previous two years, it took us a few races to start winning. So that's part of it, but obviously the car is very good, the engine is better than it was last year and the Michelin tyres worked very well.

"Rickard was as quick as me, but for some reason he could not show that speed all through the race. So I think the Volvo is right there with us and with three weeks to the next race, I'm sure the other cars will find some speed. It's going to get harder, for sure, but we can also improve the Laguna a little bit more as well."

Menu led both 18-lap, 45-mile races from the green light, beating Plato away from the line on each occasion and establishing immediate advantages. Plato followed his team-leader home in the first race and was poised to cap his debut with another runner-up position in the second event before his retirement.

He had impressed observers in the first race by holding off Rydell, whose S40 was forced out by a holed radiator. A punctured radiator also claimed the Audi A4 quattro of Frank Biela, the defending champion, who recovered in the second race to finish third. The next two rounds of the championship are at Silverstone on April 20.

SQUASH

Cairns quick to see winning chance

By Colin McQuillan

PETER NICOL, of Scotland, broke a four-year jinx by winning his first-round match in the Leekes British Open championship in Cardiff yesterday, despite looking comprehensively beaten yet again at the end of his third game against Paul Johnson. However, it was Mark Cairns, the British national champion, from Oxford, who was declaring his win as the most astonishing of the day.

Cairns, 29, was back on court just 14 days after surgery for a detached retina and defeated David Palmer, a qualifier from Australia, 15-12, 15-10, 17-14 in 78 minutes.

"The doctors talked about it being possible that I would never play again," Cairns said. "The operation was like something from The Terminator. They took out my eye to work on it. Then they said it would be exceptional if I could see well enough to play here and a miracle if I won a match."

In the second round, Cairns will play the No 8 seed, Brett Martin, from Australia, who continued the sharp and deceptive skills that carried him to the Super Series final last week, in defeating Peter Marshall 15-12, 15-8, 15-9 in 47 minutes.

Marshall, the Nottingham double-hander, returning on a wild-card entry after two years struggling against chronic fatigue syndrome, said: "It is a long time since I faced that sort of pace. The first rally was the hardest I have played since I beat Brett in the 1995 semi-finals here. I am feeling good and it was just fantastic to be back in tournament play, but I obviously need a lot more of it to compete at this level again."

Nicol might remember Johnson's forlorn match-ball rally in the third game yesterday in even more stark relief. The 23-year-old world No 3 has to go back to the preliminary rounds of 1992 to find his previous win in the game's premier event until this 7-15, 15-17, 15-14, 15-7, 15-6 breakthrough.

He had even shaken hands with Johnson in the belief that a mis-hit, backhand drop shot had completed his nemesis yet again at 14-12 down in the third game. "It seemed all of a piece with my British Open experiences," the Scot said. "I didn't see the shot and assumed from Paul's reaction that it was a good one."

In fact, the referee, Ray Gingele, had called the shot down, but the marker, Peter Lawrence, declared the match won. It took the intervention of a watching Australian woman player, Toni Weeks, to bring the attention of both players and spectators to the referee's decision and get the match under way again.

"That was where I relaxed, perhaps for the first time ever in the British Open," Nicol said.

BOWLS

Sutherland succumbs to illness

BOB SUTHERLAND, who won the world indoor singles championship in 1983 and was Scotland's first national bowls coach, died in Livingston, West Lothian, on Sunday, aged 54, after a six-month fight against cancer (David Rhys Jones writes).

Sutherland was born in Broxburn, in 1942, and spent six years as a professional footballer, playing centre half with Rangers and Stirling Albion, before suffering a serious knee injury. Turning to bowls, he won the Scottish indoor singles championship in 1974 and 1982. He took the world title at Coatbridge the following year, recovering from 11-18 to beat David Bryant, 21-20, in the semi-final and defeating Burnie Gill, of Canada, 21-11, in the final.

Sutherland played indoors for Scotland 12 times between 1974 and 1994, from the Bainfield and West Lothian clubs, and for the past eight years was national coach. His tireless work earned him several awards.

He was a popular figure on the world bowls scene, often leading parties of supporters, mainly from Scotland, to international events, such as last year's world outdoor championships in Adelaide. He leaves a widow, Ellen, and three grown-up children, Adele, Fiona and John.

SNOOKER

Davis adds gloss with whitewash

By Phil Yates

STEVE DAVIS and Mark Williams employ starkly contrasting styles, but a common bond of excellence linked the two as they reached the last 16 of the British Open in Plymouth yesterday without conceding a frame.

Davis, who is not yet certain of retaining his place in the game's top 16 next season, secured another healthy stock of points by whitewashing Mark Davis 5-0. Combining thoughtful safety, precise positional play and, most important, reliable long potting, the six-times world champion dominated from the outset.

Breaks of 60, 76 and 66 were the highlights as the winner of the tournament in 1986 and 1993 eased through to a meeting with either Antony Bolsover, who surprisingly overcame John Higgins in the first round, or Martin Clark.

"It's nice to outgun one of the rising young talents on the circuit," the elder Davis said. "I felt very confident in scoring position and that's a great asset because you know, given the chance, you can make the most of it."

While Steve Davis was measured and efficient, Williams, who required a mere 71 minutes to defeat Nick Pearce 5-0, simply relied upon his exceptional potting skills.

Williams, up from sixteenth to sixth in the provisional standings this season primarily as a result of capturing the Grand Prix title last October, did not allow Pearce to score a single point as he swiftly established a 3-0 advantage.

During this spell of sustained scoring, Williams compiled breaks of 107, 57, 33 and 77 as he amassed 291 unanswered points. He snatched the fourth frame on a re-spotted black and comfortably added the fifth.

It was a disappointing display from Pearce, a former male model, who figured in the semi-finals of last year's International Open and was also responsible for the demise of Ronnie O'Sullivan at this season's Grand Prix.

Dave Harold, whose place in the world's top 16 is under considerably greater threat than that of Davis, was relieved to progress into the last 32 at the expense of Billy Snaddon. Harold prevailed 5-4, after leading 4-2, and will next play Dennis Taylor.

Taylor, disconsolate after failing to negotiate the final qualifying round of the world championship in Telford last week, battled for 3½ hours before beating Stephen Murphy 5-2.

Even if Taylor is relegated from the top 32 in the world at the end of the season, he says has no intention of retiring from competition to concentrate on his hectic television commentary and exhibition schedule.

Results, page 32

IN BRIEF

Geoghegan returns to Bath line-up

SIMON GEOGHEGAN, the Ireland wing, will start a league match for Bath for the first time since August when they travel to play Sale tomorrow evening. Geoghegan, a replacement against West Hartlepool last Thursday, who played in two other matches last week after recovering from toe operations, is being given every prospect of recovering full match-fitness in case of a call-up for the British Isles' tour of South Africa.

He takes over from Jon Sleightholme in a side that includes neither of Bath's imports from Argentina, Federico Méndez and German Llanes.

Mendis out

Cricket: Sri Lanka have dismissed Duleep Mendis, their chief cricket selector. The decision to remove Mendis, who was also the manager of the country's World Cup-winning team, came close on the heels of Sri Lanka's 2-0 Test series defeat by New Zealand earlier this month. A former Sri Lanka captain, Mendis had been the head of the national team selection panel since December 1994.

Hayles hearty

Cycling: Rob Hayles, the Olympic track rider, who was a last-minute entry for the Girvan three-day road race, won the 215-mile Scottish event yesterday, increasing his lead in the Premier calendar series and adding to his hat-trick of victories at Herne Hill on Good Friday. Hayles, the Ambrosia rider, won two of the four Girvan stages, including the decisive race yesterday.

Slalom triumph

Skiing: Johnny Moulder-Brown scored a substantial victory in the men's slalom, his second title at the British Land British junior championships in Tignes, France, yesterday. Ross Green, the defending champion, left Moulder-Brown to ski his own race when he skied out of the course after less than five gates and did not finsh.

In top gear

Motorcycling: Ian Simpson and Jim Moodie dominated the opening round in the British Production Powerbike championship at Thruxton. Simpson won the first of the two races, reduced by three laps to 15, because of two first-corner crashes, but he was pressed all of the way by the determined Moodie. In the second race, Moodie, riding a Suzuki, won by four seconds from Simpson.

Warriors rule

Orienteering: Cumberlands Warriors beat O. K. Tyr, the favourites, to win the Jan Kjellstrom Relay Trophy at Bodmin yesterday. Maintaining the cut and thrust tempo set in the individual titles scramble on Saturday and Sunday, South Yorkshire won a neck-and-neck battle with Sheffield University to take the womens' trophy.

Shooting star

Shooting: Squadron Leader David Calvert, RAF, a Great Britain and Northern Ireland shot, won the grand and long-range aggregates at the Bisley Easter meeting. So close was the shooting that central bullseyes were used to decide the winner in four of the six competitions.

Hingis reigns

Tennis: Martina Hingis, 16, of Switzerland, was yesterday confirmed as the youngest women's world No 1, deposing Steffi Graf, of Germany. Hingis's top ranking came just two days after she beat Monica Seles to win the Lipton event at Key Biscayne.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European under-21 championship
Qualifying group four
Scotland v Austria
(at Fir Park, Motherwell)

Group eight
Macedonia v Ireland
(at Kavadarci, 4.0)

Under-21 international match
England v Switzerland
(at Swindon Town FC, 7.45)

Nationwide League
Second division
Bournemouth v Stockport (7.45)
Luton v Bristol City (7.45)
Shrewsbury v Burnley
Walsall v Chesterfield (7.45)

Third division
Brighton v Barnet (7.45)

ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Uxbridge v Marlow. Second division: Cheshunt v Metropolitan Police. Third division: Braintree v Aveley; Hornchurch v Southall.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Cardiff City v Ipswich Town (2.0); Oxford United v Crystal Palace. League Cup: Tottenham Hotspur v Queens Park Rangers (at St Albans FC).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Tranmere Rovers v Sheffield Wednesday (7.0). First division: Notts County v Port Vale (7.0), Preston North End v Sheffield United (7.0); Wolverhampton Wanderers v Middlesbrough (7.0).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Coleraine v Glenavon (3.0), Crusaders v Cliftonville (3.0); Linfield v Ards, Portadown v Glentoran. First division: Carrick v Ballymena (3.0); Distillery v Ballyclare.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bristol Manor Farm v Westbury United. Paulton Rovers v Calne Town.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: League Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Beaconsfield Sycob v Woodford.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Harpenden v Arlesey. Milton Keynes v Royston.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Isle of Wight Festival: Peterborough v Bradford, Lowestoft and North Suffolk v East Berkshire. Kingston-upon-Hull v Wirral; Vale of White Horse v Bridgwater; Reading v Leeds. Manchester v Luton; Blackburn v A N Other; Yeovil v Bury; Huntingdon v Sheffield; Derby v Gosport and Fareham, Cambridge United v Doncaster; East Cornwall v Newham; Rotherham v Plymouth; Gravesham v Wellingborough; Wakefield v Isle of Wight; Havant v Bishop Auckland.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League
Castleford v Bradford (7.30)
Halifax v Leeds (7.30)
Oldham v London (7.30)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Wigan St Patrick's v Leigh Miners (7.30)

RUGBY UNION

Welsh League
First division
Cardiff v Newport (7.0)
Neath v Pontypridd (7.15)

OTHER SPORT

SNOOKER: British Open (at Plymouth Pavilions).
SQUASH: British Open (at Cardiff)

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POOLS FORECAST

Saturday April 5
Coupon No, fixture, forecast

FA PREMIERSHIP
1 A Villa v Everton 1
2 Man Utd v Derby 1
3 Newcastle v Sunderl'd 1
4 Nottm F v South'pton 1

FIRST DIVISION
5 Barnsley v Birm'gham 1
6 Bolton v QPR 1
7 Charlton v Man City 2
8 C Palace v Hudd'field X
9 Ipswich v Oldham 1
10 Oxford v Port Vale X
11 Portsmouth v Grimsby 1
12 Sheff Utd v W Brom 1
13 Stoke v Reading 1
14 Swindon v Southend 1
15 Wolves v Norwich X

SECOND DIVISION
16 Brentford v Shr'sbury 1
17 Bristol C v Bury 2
18 Burnley v Millwall 1
19 Chest'f'ld v Gill'gham 1
20 Peterboro v Bour'm'th 2
21 Preston v Plymouth X
22 Rotherham v Luton 2
23 Watford v Crewe X
24 Wrexham v Walsall 2
25 Wycombe v Blackp'l 1
26 York v Notts Co 1

THIRD DIVISION
27 Barnet v Hull 1
28 Cardiff v Cambridge 1
29 Carlisle v Fulham 1
30 Chester v Wigan X
31 Darl'gton v Doncaster 2
32 Exeter v Torquay 1
33 Hartlepool v Leyton O 2
34 Hereford v Colchester X
35 Lincoln v Swansea 2
36 North'pton v Scarboro X
37 Rochdale v Mansfield 2
38 Scunthorpe v Brighton 1

SCOTTISH PREMIER
39 Aberdeen v Motherwell 1
40 Hibernian v Dundee U 1
41 Kilmarnock v Hearts X
42 Raith v Celtic 2
43 Rangers v Dunf'mline 1

SCOTTISH FIRST
44 Airdrie v Clydebank 1
45 Dundee v Falkirk 1
46 East Fife v Partick 2
47 G Morton v St J'stone 2
48 Stirling v St Mirren X

SCOTTISH SECOND
49 Brechin v Q of South 1

DRAWS (home teams): C Palace, Oxford, Wolves, Preston, Watford, Chester, Hereford, Northampton, Kilmarnock, Stirling.
BEST DRAWS: Oxford, Wolves, Chester, Hereford, Kilmarnock.
HOMES: Manchester United, Newcastle, Nottingham Forest, Portsmouth, Stoke, Brentford, Wycombe, York, Carlisle, Dundee

AWAYS: Manchester City, Bury, Luton, Swansea, Mansfield

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Newcastle, Portsmouth, Brentford, Wycombe, York. Aways: Luton, Swansea, Mansfield. Draws: Wolves, Chester, Hereford.

☐ Vince Wright

RACING: MAXIMUM FIELD IN PROSPECT AT AINTREE AS 45 REMAIN IN MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL AT LATEST FORFEIT STAGE

Master Oats holds sway in weighting game

By Our Racing Staff

THE Martell Grand National at Aintree on Saturday could yet have a maximum field of 40 runners. There had been fears that the race, which attracted only 27 runners last year, might suffer once again when just 54 were left in at the second forfeit stage, but only nine were withdrawn at yesterday's five-day declaration stage, leaving 45 engaged in the 4½-mile contest.

Master Oats remains at the head of the weights and continues to provide the most significant talking point. Should he be withdrawn at the final declaration stage on Thursday, the weights would rise by 15lb and create an entirely different picture for the remainder by drawing an extra 16 runners into the handicap proper. Kim Bailey, the trainer of Master Oats, will decide on his participation after walking the course on Thursday morning.

There were nine withdrawals yesterday from the Martell Grand National: Amtrak Express, Son Of War, Commercial Artist, Pashto, Go Go Gallant, All For Luck, Mudahim, Betty's Boy, Jurassic Classic.

Jenny Pitman, twice successful in the National, will rely on Nahthen Lad and Smith's Band, having taken out Mudahim, who underlined the stable's wellbeing by winning the Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse yesterday. Sister Stephanie, declared at Fairyhouse only to refuse to start, has been left in by her trainer, Graham McCourt.

ED BYRNE

MARTIN LYNCH

Master Oats, left, continues to dominate the National weights and govern the prospects of the leading fancies, including Suny Bay, right

As the race approaches, the annual shuffling of riding arrangements has begun in earnest. Charlie Swan, the Irish champion jockey, had been booked by Tom Tate to continue his association with Lo Stregone, but Swan has opted to partner the Arthur Moore-trained Wylde Hide, recently strongly backed in the ante-post market. Graham Bradley will take over on Lo Stregone.

Graeme James, agent to Swan and Bradley, explained that the switch came about as the likelihood of Paul Carberry being claimed for Robert Ogden's Buckboard Bounce left Wylde Hide without a big-race jockey.

"Arthur did not want to have to wait too long to find out because then he might not be able to find a top jockey for his horse, which is the most fancied of the Irish runners according to the bookmakers," he said. "With his Irish connections, Charlie was the obvious choice.

"I contacted Mr Tate, who was happy enough to have 'Brad' ride Lo Stregone instead of Charlie, so it all fell into place. If Lo Stregone is back to his best, it could be a good ride and I know 'Brad' is looking forward to it."

Swan will be attempting to improve on a career-best fifth place in the National (on Lastofthebrownies in 1990) on Wylde Hide, who is 10-1 joint-second favourite for the race with Coral and William Hill.

Bradley, whose mount is quoted at 12-1 for Aintree by Coral, seeks to complete the course for only the third time in 11 National rides. The Yorkshireman has also been booked to ride the Grand Annual Chase winner, Uncle Ernie, in the Martell Aintree Chase on the same card.

NATIONAL ACCEPTORS

Master Oats (K Bailey)	11st 10lb
Challenger Du Luc (M Pipe)	10-9
Nahthen Lad (Mrs J Pitman)	10-9
Lo Stregone (T Tate)	10-4
Suny Bay (C Brooks)	10-3
Feathered Gale (A Moore, Ire)	10-3
Avro Anson (M Camacho)	10-2
Belmont King (P Nicholls)	10-1
Buckboard Bounce (G Richards)	10-1
Bishops Hall (R Alner)	10-1
Lord Gyllene (S Brookshaw)	9-13
Wylde Hide (A Moore, Ire)	9-13
Dextra Dove (S Earle)	9-13
Antonin (Mrs S Bramall, Ire)	9-13
Smith's Band (Mrs J Pitman)	9-10
New Co (M Morris, Ire)	9-9
Go Ballistic (J O'Shea)	9-8
General Wolfe (T Forster)	9-8
Glemot (K Bailey)	9-7
Valiant Warrior (M Hammond)	9-6
Time For A Run (E O'Grady, Ire)	9-3
Killeshin (H Manners)	9-3
Master Boston (R Woodhouse)	9-3
Straight Talk (P Nicholls)	9-2
Nuaffe (P Fahy, Ire)	9-2
Northern Hide (M Salaman)	9-0
Turning Trix (D Nicholson)	8-12
Sister Stephanie (G McCourt)	8-12
River Mandate (T Forster)	8-12
Grange Brake (N Twiston-Davies)	8-12
Evangelica (M Pipe)	8-10
Back Bar (A Moore, Ire)	8-10
Dakyns Boy (N Twiston-Davies)	8-9
Scribbler (G McCourt)	8-8
Celtic Abbey (Miss V Williams)	8-7
Christmas Gorse (N Gaselee)	8-7
Full Of Oats (Miss H Knight)	8-6
Camelot Knight (N Twiston-Davies)	8-6
Mugoni Beach (M Pipe)	8-4
Samlee (P Hobbs)	8-2
Plastic Spaceage (J Old)	8-2
Over The Stream (Miss K Milligan)	8-2
Don't Light Up (Miss V Williams)	8-2
Pink Gin (M Hammond)	8-0
Spuffington (J Gifford)	8-0

To be run at Aintree on Saturday

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Tote
Lord Gyllene	9-1	9-1	8-1	7-1
Suny Bay	10-1	10-1	10-1	9-1
Go Ballistic	10-1	12-1	9-1	12-1
Wylde Hide	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1
Time For A Run	12-1	10-1	10-1	14-1
Antonin	14-1	14-1	14-1	11-1
Avro Anson	16-1	14-1	14-1	12-1
Lo Stregone	12-1	16-1	16-1	12-1
Smith's Band	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
General Wolfe	20-1	20-1	20-1	16-1
Belmont King	16-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Nahthen Lad	25-1	16-1	20-1	20-1

AFTER yesterday's five-day declaration stage, 45 horses remain entered in the Martell Grand National. The shape of Saturday's race hinges on the participation of the top weight, Master Oats. If he runs, a maximum of ten will be able to race off their correct handicap mark. If he is not declared, a further 16 would be brought into the handicap proper. With the ground described as good, but good to soft in places, the suspicion has to be that Kim Bailey will leave him in.

Since selecting Avro Anson and Lord Gyllene, at 25-1 and 20-1 respectively, when the weights were announced, the main change in the National betting has been the introduction of Go Ballistic as favourite on the strength of his excellent fourth in the Cheltenham Gold Cup. He has claims on that form, but his jumping may let him down at Aintree.

While Avro Anson still looks overpriced at 16-1 with Coral, those wishing to add to earlier ante-post wagers should take the 16-1 offered about **SMITH'S BAND**. Jenny Pitman's love affair with the National has been well documented, and in Richard Dunwoody she has a jockey with equally good Aintree credentials. His record of two wins, a second, a third and two fourths from 11 attempts is outstanding, and although Smith's Band was pulled up on his reappearance at Newbury a month ago, he shaped as though retaining all his ability there and has an excellent chance if returning to his best.

Mudahim

Pitman

keep [illegible]

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S 16 BANK HOLIDAY MEETINGS

Kempton Park

Going: good to firm

1.40 (7f) 1, STRATHMORE CLEAR (Pat Eddery, 11-2); 2, Mr Majica (B Doyle, 16-1); 3, Ijtinab (S Sanders, 40-1). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Beyond Calculation (4th), 5 Regal Patrol (5th), 11-2 Burundi, 7 Neronian (6th), 10 Speculator, 40 Dandy Regent, Gain Line. 10 ran. Hd, hd, nk, nk, 1¼l. G Lewis at Epsom. Tote: £8.20; £2.10, £2.60, £8.30. DF: £40.90. Trio £380.80 CSF: £80.39

2.10 (7f) 1, GREENAWAY BAY (M Hills, 7-2); 2, The Negotiator (A Clark, 20-1); 3, Foreign Rule (J Reid, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 2-1 fav Blue Goblin (4th), 9-2 Wira, 7 Muhassil, 14 Teraab, 33 Out Line (6th), Rotor Man (5th). 9 ran. 3½l, ½l, nk, 1l, 1¾l. G Wragg at Newmarket. Tote: £5.10; £1.80, £3.30, £2.10. DF: £99.99. Trio £243.70. CSF: £84.81.

2.40 (6f) 1, MONAASSIB (D O'Donohue, 11-2); 2, Oh Nellie (R Ffrench, 13-2); 3, World Premier (B Doyle, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 fav Watch Me, 11-2 Patsy Grimes (6th), 7 Tomba (5th), 8 Sea Dane, 10 Montendre, 14 Loch Patrick (4th), 33 Sayyaramix, 100 Funchal Way. 11 ran. ¾l, 4l, nk, 1¼l, 1¼l. E Dunlop at Newmarket. Tote: £6.20; £2.40, £1.90, £5.20. DF: £25.80. Trio £154.30 CSF £38.59

3.10 (6f) 1, EASTERN PROPHETS (A Clark, 20-1); 2, Sea-Deer (R Cochrane, 5-1 fav); 3, Denbrae (T Quinn, 12-1); 4, Cim Bom Bom (G Faulkner, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 So Intrepid, 9 Newlands Corner, 12 Delta Soleil, 14 Bayin, Efra, Longwick Lad, Sir Joey, 16 Lennox Lewis, Pointer (5th), 20 Friendly Brave, Step On Degas, 33 Erupt (6th), General Sir Peter, Time For Tea. 18 ran. ½l, hd, 1¾l, hd, nk. G Lewis at Epsom. Tote: £21.40; £4.90, £1.70, £3.80, £2.30. DF: £83.80. Trio: £1,121.80. CSF: £105.38. Tricast: £1,214.26.

3.40 (1m 2f) 1, ROMIOS (T Quinn, 14-1); 2, Secret Aly (B Doyle, 12-1); 3, Dreams End (M Hills, 8-1); 4, Hazard A Guess (Alex Greaves, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 5-1 fav Hardy Dancer (5th), 13-2 Thai Morning, 9 Silver Groom (6th), 12 Hoh Express, Royal Result, 14 Renown, 20 Bowled Over, Remaadi Sun, Serendipity, Solyaam, 25 Lookingforarainbow, Zermatt, 33 Chairmans Choice, Docklands Limo, Royal Seaton, 66 Caudillo. 20 ran. Nk, 1¾l, ½l, ½l, 1½l. P Cole at Whatcombe. Tote: £18.00; £3.90, £3.10, £2.50, £2.40. DF: £115.70. Trio: £503.40. CSF £151.86. Tricast £1,348.97.

4.15 (1m 2f) 1, DR MASSINI (J Reid, 11-10 fav); 2, Germano (M Hills, 16-1); 3, Proper Blue (S Sanders, 100-30). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Captain Horatius (4th), 11-2 Prince of My Heart (5th). 5 ran. 2½l, 2l, hd, 1l. M Stoute at Newmarket. Tote: £2.00; £1.40, £3.20. DF: £16.30. CSF: £16.90.

4.45 (1m 3f 30yd) 1, SINGLE EMPIRE (J Reid, 3-1); 2, Prairie Falcon (M Hills, 6-1); 3, London Lights (T Quinn, 7-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Pennys From Heaven (4th), 7 Seattle Swing (5th), 33 Mac's Delight (6th). 6 ran. Sh hd, 3½l, 3l, 8l, 9l. P Chapple-Hyam at Manton. Tote: £4.10; £2.10, £2.30. DF: £11.40 CSF: £19.18.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £34,143.70 carried forward to Uttoxeter today).

Placepot: £3,928.20. Quadpot: £25.90.

Newcastle

Going: good to firm

2.25 (1m) 1, Minersville (L Dettori, 8-11 fav); 2, Tigrello (10-1); 3, Final Trial (10-1). 10 ran. Hd, 2l. J Gosden. Tote: £1.70; £1.40, £1.50, £2.80. DF: £4.60. Trio: £21.40. CSF: £9.12.

2.55 (5f) 1, Stately Princess (L Dettori, 5-4); 2, Carambo (12-1); 3, Flower O'Cannie (11-2). Antonia's Double 11-10 fav. 4 ran. ¾l, ½l. M Channon. Tote: £2.30. DF: £7.10 CSF. £12.48.

3.30 (1m 3yd) 1, Gadge (T Siddall, 7-2 fav); 2, Sandmoor Denim (14-1); 3, Seconds Away (16-1); 4, Sheraz (10-1). 20 ran. 3l, hd. A Bailey. Tote: £5.10; £1.80, £3.90, £7.10, £2.30. DF: £55.00. Trio: £322.00. CSF: £63.92. Tricast: £538.98.

4.00 (5f) 1, Surprise Mission (J Fortune, 15-8 fav); 2, Broadstairs Beauty (16-1); 3, Malteamia (9-1). 11 ran. Nk, ¾l. Mrs J Ramsden. Tote: £2.60; £1.50, £2.40, £2.00. DF: £41.10. Trio: £61.30. CSF: £33.13. Tricast: £203.14.

4.35 (1m 4f 93yd) 1, Perfect Paradigm (L Dettori, 5-2); 2, Dark Green (11-10 fav); 3, Lawahik (5-2). 8 ran. 1¼l, 1¾l. J Gosden. Tote: £3.00; £1.40, £1.10, £1.10. DF: £1.60. CSF: £5.21.

5.05 (7f) 1, Three Arch Bridge (D McKeown, 14-1); 2, Impulsive Air (7-1); 3, Foist (11-4 fav); 4, Be Warned (20-1). 18 ran. ¾l, sh hd. M Johnston. Tote £15.70; £3.60, £2.00, £1.60, £5.40. DF: £55.70. Trio: £103.30. CSF: £108.88. Tricast: £342.91.

Placepot: £17.30. Quadpot: £8.80.

Nottingham

Going: good to firm

2.20 (5f 13yd) 1, Lord Smith (D Sweeney, 11-10 fav); 2, Who Nose (8-1); 3, Pink Ticket (6-1). 8 ran. 2l, sh hd. W G M Turner. Tote: £2.10; £1.40, £2.20, £1.90. DF: £10.60. CSF: £10.97.

2.50 (5f 13yd) 1, Mile High (Paul Eddery, 11-8); 2, Cathedral (10-11 fav); 3, Bold Gayle (16-1). 7 ran. 2l, 7l. M Channon. Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £1.40. DF: £1.10. CSF: £3.03.

3.20 (6f 15yd) 1, Treasure Touch (J Carroll, 7-1); 2, Master Foley (14-1); 3, Mike's Double (6-1); 4, Distinctive Dream (25-1). Penlop 7-2 fav. 18 ran. 3½l, ¾l. D Nicholls. Tote: £6.70; £1.80, £3.30, £1.60, £8.00. DF: £109.30. Trio: £231.20 (part won; pool of £260.58 carried forward to 3.10 at Uttoxeter today). CSF: £110.19. Tricast: £606.32.

3.50 (1m 1f 213yd) 1, Ikatania (M Rimmer, 6-1); 2, Time Can Tell (5-1); 3, Madison Welcome (16-1). Agony Aunt 4-1 fav. 11 ran. 1¾l, ¾l. J Dunlop. Tote: £7.00; £1.80, £2.00, £5.60. DF: £26.30. Trio £173.70 (part won; pool of £83.21 carried forward to 3.10 at Uttoxeter today). CSF. £38.29. Tricast: £447.31.

4.20 (1m 6f 15yd) 1, Ramike (J Weaver, 6-4 fav); 2, Woodland Nymph (6-1); 3, Maremma (25-1). 8 ran. 7l, 1¼l. M Johnston. Tote: £2.30; £1.40, £1.50, £7.00. DF: £6.90 CSF: £11.72. Tricast: £159.31. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

4.50 (1m 54yd) 1, Freedom Chance (M Henry, 8-1); 2, Pennywell (10-1); 3, First Chance (10-1); 4, Barresbo (33-1). Major Twist 7-2 fav. 18 ran. 1l, ¾l. J Hills. Tote: £20.80; £4.80, £2.40, £3.80, £7.20. DF: £82.50. Trio: £331.50. CSF: £100.14. Tricast: £543.31.

Placepot: £184.80. Quadpot: £136.50.

Warwick

Going: good to firm

2.30 (5f) 1, Vax Rapide (S Drowne, 8-1); 2, Mugello (12-1); 3, Always Lucky (5-1). Theatre Of Dreams 5-2 fav. 14 ran. 1¾l, nk. J Spearing. Tote: £10.60; £2.70, £3.60, £1.70. DF: £71.10. Trio: £45.90. CSF: £90.28.

3.00 (1m 2f 169yd) 1, Count Tony (D Biggs, 25-1); 2, Tango King (11-2 fav); 3, Mystic Quest (12-1). 12 ran. ½l, 1¾l. S Woods. Tote: £27.60; £5.90, £2.80, £4.00. DF: £110.60. Trio: £227.00 CSF £143.40. Tricast: £1,604.02.

3.35 (1m 2f 169yd) 1, Mad Militant (T Sprake, 8-1); 2, Vola Via (12-1); 3, Mono Lady (10-1). Yet Again 5-2 fav. 13 ran. ¾l, 1½l. A Streeter. Tote: £7.00; £1.40, £3.10, £3.30. DF: £36.70. Trio: £89.90 CSF: £99.51. Tricast: £918.81.

4.05 (1m 4f 115yd) 1, Dominant Duchess (K Fallon, 5-2); 2, As-Is (4-5 fav); 3, Ronquista D'Or (40-1). 6 ran. 1¼l, 6l. J Hills. Tote: £3.30; £1.70, £1.40. DF: £2.00. CSF: £4.54.

4.40 (7f) 1, Russian Music (K Fallon, 11-4 jt-fav); 2, Carranita (6-1); 3, King Of Peru (11-4 jt-fav). 8 ran. NR: Lonely Leader. 3½l, 3l. Miss G Kelleway. Tote: £3.90; £1.40, £2.30, £1.60. DF: £10.10. Trio: £7.80. CSF: £18.13

5.10 (5f) 1, Napoleon Star (N Adams, 12-1); 2, Sotonian (16-1); 3, Gi La High (5-2 fav). 13 ran. ½l, 1¼l. S Bowring. Tote: £15.90; £3.00, £3.90. DF: £103.30. Trio: £79.80. CSF: £186.81. Tricast: £489.46.

Placepot: £413.00. Quadpot: £19.00.

Carlisle

Going: good

2.20 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Sousse (G Lee, 6-4 fav); 2, Tabriz (7-1); 3, Pearls Of Thought (12-1). 13 ran. 2½l, 1l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £2.30; £1.40, £2.00, £2.60. DF: £6.70. CSF: £11.44

2.50 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Tough Test (B Storey, 5-1); 2, Kiltulla (11-2); 3, Corston Joker (11-4 fav). 13 ran. 9l, sh hd. Mrs J Goodfellow. Tote: £6.80; £1.90, £2.40, £1.80. DF: £43.90. CSF. £34.16. Tricast: £89.72

3.20 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Ardrina (M Foster, 2-1 fav); 2, Meadow Hymn (6-1); 3, Magpie Melody (9-2). 17 ran. 2l, 11l. F Murphy. Tote: £3.40; £1.60, £2.70, £2.00. DF: £6.00. CSF. £13.53

3.50 (3m ch) 1, Nijway (B Storey, 20-1); 2, Gale Ahead (6-1); 3, Reapers Rock (11-2). Northern Squire 2-1 fav. 10 ran. NR: Forward Glen. 2½l, 14l. M Barnes. Tote £13.00; £2.60, £1.70, £2.60. DF £39.50 CSF: £133.18. Tricast: £707.40

4.20 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Monnaie Forte (B Storey, 11-4); 2, Well Appointed (10-1); 3, Danbys Gorse (9-1). Secret Service 9-4 fav. 8 ran. 4l, hd. J Adam. Tote: £5.10, £1.70, £2.10, £1.20. DF: £17.00. CSF. £30.29. Tricast: £213.51

4.50 (3m 2f ch) 1, Buck's Delight (Mr M Bradburne, 33-1); 2, Ask Antony (4-5 fav); 3, Admission (8-1). 14 ran. NR: Flower Of Dunblane. ½l, 14l. Mrs R Arthur. Tote. £50.10; £13.50, £1.40, £3.60. DF: £28.30. CSF. £64.51.

5.20 (2m 1f flat) 1, Brother Of Iris (G Lee, 9-4 fav); 2, What A Fiddler (33-1); 3, Kit Smartie (14-1). 20 ran. 5l, 4l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £4.80; £3.00, £7.30, £2.90. DF. £160.20. CSF: £94.90

Placepot: £71.60. Quadpot: £24.80.

Chepstow

Going: good, good to firm in places

2.00 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Out Ranking (Jamie Evans, 15-8 fav); 2, Holy Joe (15-2); 3, Kadari (6-1). 10 ran. NR: Ballet Royal, Viscount Tully. 3l, ½l. M Pipe. Tote: £3.10; £1.30, £1.80, £1.40. DF: £12.60 CSF: £15.46.

2.30 (3m ch) 1, Seod Rioga (N Mann, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Harwell Lad (7-2); 3, Old Bridge (3-1 jt-fav). 6 ran. 26l, 6l. S Mellor. Tote: £4.20; £1.70, £2.10. DF: £8.20. CSF: £13.54.

3.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Potentate (Jamie Evans, 100-30); 2, Daraydan (9-4); 3, Mistinguett (11-8 fav). 5 ran. 3½l, 1¾l. M Pipe. Tote: £3.30; £1.50, £1.90. DF: £3.40. CSF: £10.32.

3.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Zander (C Llewellyn, 9-4); 2, Major Dundee (9-4); 3, Rumpelstiltskin (25-1). 9 ran. NR: Calon Lan, Fearless Hussar, Tiaphena. 1¾l, 13l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £3.10; £1.10, £1.20, £2.10. DF. £4.50. CSF £6.91.

4.00 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, James The First (M A Fitzgerald, 4-1); 2, Pharsilk (10-1); 3, Melwood Castle (5-4 fav). 5 ran. NR: Lance Armstrong. 5l, 16l. P Nicholls. Tote: £4.20; £1.60, £2.70. DF: £15.30. CSF. £30.70.

4.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Cassio's Boy (N Mann, 20-1); 2, Reaganesque (11-2); 3, Jovie King (5-1). 12 ran. NR: Sparkling Cone. 1¾l, 11l. R Eckley. Tote: £31.70; £4.90, £2.50, £3.10. DF: £154.70. CSF: £129.30. Tricast: £909.15.

Placepot: £702.60. Quadpot: £81.70.

Fakenham

Going: good

2.30 (2m hdle) 1, Blotoft (D O'Sullivan, 16-1); 2, Ruth's Gamble (7-2 jt-fav); 3, Arch Angel (7-2 jt-fav). 15 ran. Nk, 5l. S Gollings. Tote: £24.50; £5.30, £1.70, £1.50. DF: £40.60. CSF £69.32 Tricast: £236.00.

3.05 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1, Not My Line (Mr W Wales, 20-1); 2, Up For Ransome (11-4); 3, Gatog (7-1). Reverend Brown 5-2 fav. 9 ran. NR: Highland Rally. ½l, 5l. Andy Morgan. Tote. £14.90; £3.30, £1.80, £3.20. DF: £55.50. CSF. £75.85

3.40 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Sir Dante (D O'Sullivan, 9-4 fav); 2, Antiguan Flyer (6-1); 3, Fire On Ice (5-1). 7 ran. 9l, 2½l. R Rowe. Tote: £3.50; £2.10, £1.90. DF: £8.80 CSF £15.28.

4.15 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Dromin Leader (Mr W Wales, 7-4 fav); 2, Cherry Chap (20-1); 3, Saint Bene't (8-1). 7 ran. NR: Al Jawwal, Emsee-H. Hd, 10l. J Turner. Tote: £3.30; £1.80, £4.40. DF £19.80. CSF. £30.42.

4.50 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1, Tim Soldier (Mr R Wakley, 2-1 fav); 2, Whippers Delight (3-1); 3, Call Me Albi (8-1). 7 ran. NR: Mine's An Ace. 2l, nk. Miss A Stokell. Tote: £2.80; £1.50, £1.70. DF £2.80 CSF £9.11 Tricast: £28.65.

5.25 (2m hdle) 1, Geisway (X Aizpuru, 6-5 fav); 2, Music Please (11-4); 3, Otto E Mezzo (3-1). 5 ran. Nk, 4l. N Walker. Tote £2.20; £1.40, £1.80. DF: £3.20. CSF: £4.99

Placepot: £41.70. Quadpot: £11.90.

Hereford

Going: good to firm

2.30 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Noble Colours (Mr A Wintle, 7-2); 2, Seattle Alley (4-7 fav); 3, Safecracker (25-1). 7 ran. NR: Shawkey. Water Music Melody. 4l, dis. S Griffiths. Tote: £4.90; £1.70, £1.20. DF: £2.80. CSF: £5.80.

3.05 (2m 3f ch) 1, Landsker Missile (Mr N Bradley, Evens fav); 2, Familiar Friend (9-1); 3, Bowl Of Oats (5-1). 9 ran. NR: Nodform Wonder. 15l, 30l. Mrs M Evans. Tote £2.20; £1.30, £2.10, £1.30. DF: £7.00 CSF. £11.98

3.40 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Just One Canaletto (Mr J Goldstein, 9-1); 2, Howgill (9-2); 3, Trust Deed (5-2). Warner's Sports 15-8 fav. 7 ran. ½l, 6l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £9.50; £2.90, £2.40. DF. £14.50 CSF £49.70

4.15 (3m 2f hdle) 1, Le Baron (G Tormey, 5-2); 2, Song For Jess (100-30); 3, Aldymann (7-2). Slippery Fin 7-4 fav. 4 ran. 2½l, 3½l. C Egerton. Tote £3.80 DF: £3.80 CSF £9.65.

4.50 (2m ch) 1, Teneyestelign (S Wynne, 6-4); 2, Lucky Eddie (4-5 fav); 3, Quarter Marker (7-1). 4 ran. NR: Indian Jockey. 6l, 7l. D Marks. Tote: £2.30. DF: £1.40. CSF £3.17.

5.25 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Kymin (Mr A Wintle, 4-1); 2, Saxon Mead (8-1); 3, Burlington Sam (5-2). Arabian Heights 2-1 fav. 9 ran. 14l, 3½l. J Bradley. Tote £4.10; £1.70, £3.70, £2.40. DF £45.20 CSF £38.18 Tricast £92.69.

Placepot: £247.50. Quadpot: £77.50.

Huntingdon

Going: good to firm

2.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Evezio Rufo (K Gaule, 12-1); 2, Sharp Thrill (11-4 fav); 3, Summer Villa (10-1). 9 ran. NR: Red Light. 8l, 2l. N Littmoden. Tote £17.70; £3.50, £1.30, £3.00. DF £43.20 CSF: £43.37. Tricast. £324.22

2.30 (3m ch) 1, Jeeliu (S McNeill, Evens fav); 2, Baron's Heir (10-1); 3, Pantara Prince (9-4). 5 ran. 1½l, 20l. K Bailey. Tote. £2.20; £1.60, £2.20. DF: £4.20. CSF £9.74.

3.00 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Sassiver (K Gaule, 15-8 fav); 2, Scud Missile (4-1); 3, La Menorquina (3-1). 5 ran. 1l, 20l. P Kelleway. Tote: £2.80; £1.60, £2.10. DF: £5.70. CSF: £9.37

3.30 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Raba Riba (T Jenks, 9-2); 2, Mr Conductor (11-8). Mister Drum Evens fav (ur). 3 ran. Hd. J Spearing. Tote: £3.90. DF: £3.20. CSF £9.60.

4.05 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Seabrook Lad (W Marston, 2-1 fav); 2, Burn Out (9-4); 3, Scenic Waters (100-30). 9 ran. 7l, 6l. M Wilkinson. Tote: £3.60; £1.80, £1.40, £1.60. DF £6.30. CSF £7.23

4.35 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Odell (S McNeill, 11-4); 2, Quick Quote (Evens fav); 3, Appearance Money (9-4). 3 ran. 4l, 30l. K Bailey. Tote: £3.40. DF £2.20. CSF £5.33

5.05 (2m 110yd flat) 1, Mad Harry (S McNeill, 7-4 fav); 2, Cue Call (9-4); 3, French County (12-1). 10 ran. 4l, 3l. K Bailey. Tote £2.40, £1.30, £1.70, £2.60. DF: £3.20. CSF £5.71

Placepot: £327.80. Quadpot: £119.60 (pool of £8.47 carried forward to Uttoxeter today).

Market Rasen

Going: good to firm, good in places

2.15 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Our Robert (F Leahy, 5-2); 2, Theme Arena (7-4 fav); 3, Danteas Amour (25-1). 11 ran. Hd, 4l. J Fitzgerald. Tote. £3.10; £1.40, £1.60, £4.30. DF. £3.00. CSF: £8.04

2.45 (2m 4f ch) 1, Formal Invitation (R Johnson, 4-7 fav); 2, Bowles Patrol (33-1); 3, Desert Brave (6-1). 7 ran. Dist, 4l. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.60; £1.40, £6.50. DF: £20.80 CSF: £20.58.

3.20 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, My Cheeky Man (R Johnson, 11-10 fav); 2, Keen To The Last (9-1); 3, Our Kris (10-1). 7 ran. NR: Super Rapier. 6l, 2½l. D Nicholson. Tote: £2.00; £2.00, £2.60. DF. £7.00 CSF: £12.53 Tricast: £70.64. Super Rapier (10-1) withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies, deduction 10p in pound.

3.55 (2m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Netherby Said (R Supple, 1-2 fav); 2, Daring Past (7-2); 3, Newhall Prince (3-1). 3 ran. 22l, 26l. P Beaumont. Tote: £1.50. DF: £1.80. CSF: £2.57.

4.30 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Phar Smoother (F Leahy, 11-10); 2, Morpheus (10-11 fav); 3, Raise A Dollar (12-1). 5 ran. 7l, 3l. J Fitzgerald. Tote: £11.20; £2.30, £1.10, £5.80. DF: £24.90. CSF £33.86. Tricast: £308.87

5.00 (3m 1f ch) 1, Ocean Leader (R Johnson, 15-2); 2, Karenastino (3-1); 3, Alaskan Heir (14-1). The Gallopin'major 5-4 fav (f). 8 ran. ½l, dist. Mrs D Haine. Tote: £11.20; £2.30, £1.10, £5.80. DF: £24.90. CSF: £33.86. Tricast: £308.87.

5.30 (1m 5f 110yd flat) 1, Laredo (C Scudder, 8-1); 2, Sawaab (10-1); 3, Double Star (20-1). Dig For Gold Evens fav. 14 ran. 5l, 2½l. N Chance. Tote: £9.60, £2.50, £7.70, £6.00. DF: £206.20. CSF. £126.39.

Placepot: £15.90. Quadpot: £25.60.

Newton Abbot

Going: firm, good to firm in places

2.15 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Melt The Clouds (C Maude, 4-7 fav); 2, White Plains (9-4); 3, Genereux (9-2). 3 ran. 7l, 20l. M Pipe. Tote £1.80 DF: £1.40. CSF. £2.18.

2.50 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1, Decyborg (C Maude, 2-5 fav); 2, Country Keeper (9-4); 3, Rustic Flight (9-1). 3 ran. Dist, dist. M Pipe. Tote: £1.40. DF: £1.40. CSF. £1.72

3.25 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Bowden Surprise (V Slattery, 16-1); 2, Sukaab (4-1); 3, Jay Em Ess (11-8 fav). 9 ran. 2l, 6l. R Baker. Tote £21.80, £3.00, £1.70, £1.60. DF. £97.20 CSF: £83.48 Tricast: £141.33

4.00 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Mistress Rosie (C Webb, 9-2); 2, Walk In The Woods (9-4). Dubelle 4-9 fav (pu). 3 ran. NR: Imalight. 14l. M Hill. Tote: £5.50 DF: £4.80. CSF £12.16.

4.35 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Mellow Master (C Maude, 15-8); 2, The Brewer (5-1); 3, Moonlight Escapade (4-1). Prince Of Spades 6-4 fav. 6 ran. 2½l, 4l. N Walker. Tote: £3.60, £1.80, £2.80. DF: £7.20 CSF. £13.02

5.10 (2m 6f hdle) Holdimclose (J Frost) walked over. NR: Font Romeu. R Frost.

Placepot: £189.50. Quadpot: £90.00.

Plumpton

Going: good to firm

2.30 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Anna Soleil (D Thomas, 9-2); 2, Palamon (4-1); 3, Ben Bowden (4-1). Eskimo Kiss 11-4 fav (pu). 8 ran. NR: Hanbitooh, Petros Gem. ½l, 13l. O Sherwood. Tote: £6.80, £2.10, £1.90, £1.80. DF £18.30. CSF £22.32. Tricast: £70.56

3.00 (2m ch) 1, Rustic Gent (J R Kavanagh, 10-1); 2, Mr Bean (7-4); 3, Dawn Chance (6-4 fav). 6 ran. NR: Mheanmetoo. 12l, 4l. Mrs L Jewell. Tote: £8.30; £2.80, £1.80. DF. £10.10 CSF £28.60

3.30 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Reverse Thrust (M Clinton, 14-1); 2, Alka International (7-2); 3, Real Madrid (6-1). Sun Or Spring 7-4 fav. 11 ran. Sh hd, 5l. P Hedger. Tote: £21.50, £4.30, £1.60, £2.20. DF. £59.70 CSF. £62.59

4.00 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Dream Leader (D Gallagher, 9-4); 2, Side Bar (14-1); 3, Pinoccio (7-1). Call Me River 4-5 fav (f). 5 ran. 28l, 16l. M Roberts. Tote £3.40; £1.60, £4.20. DF: £32.10 CSF: £23.61.

4.30 (2m 2f ch) 1, Normarange (J R Kavanagh, 1-2 fav); 2, River Gala (7-2). 4 ran. 4l. D Grissell. Tote £1.60. DF: £2.30. CSF: £2.78.

5.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Night In A Million (L Aspell, 7-1); 2, Bon Voyage (4-1); 3, Smuggler's Point (7-2). Kelly Mac 11-8 fav. 7 ran. 2½l, 10l. S Woodman. Tote £7.50; £2.20, £2.80. DF: £14.70. CSF: £34.35.

Placepot: £131.80. Quadpot: £42.00.

Towcester

Going: good to firm, firm in places

2.15 (2m hdle) 1, Anif (D Skyrme, 5-1); 2, Paulton (9-2); 3, Captain Tandy (10-1). Flash In The Pan 9-4 fav. 8 ran. Sh hd, 8l. J Joseph. Tote: £7.10; £1.70, £1.60, £2.20. DF: £18.70. CSF: £27.74. Tricast. £205.17

2.45 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Sleazey (S Curran, 4-5 fav); 2, Full Shilling (5-2); 3, Copper Cable (4-1). 4 ran. 1l, dist. J J O'Neill. Tote: £1.80. DF: £2.20. CSF: £3.26.

3.15 (3m 1f ch) 1, Merlins Dream (J A McCarthy, 7-2); 2, Lay It Off (6-1); 3, Danger Baby (5-1). Sheelin Lad 3-1 fav. 8 ran. NR: Carson City. 3l, 1¾l. O Sherwood. Tote: £5.00; £1.70, £1.70, £1.90. DF: £24.30. CSF. £25.64 Tricast: £100.35.

3.50 (3m hdle) 1, Ross Dancer (J Magee, 7-1); 2, Stac-Pollaidh (9-4 fav); 3, Cabochon (8-1). 8 ran. Nk, 1¼l. J Moore. Tote. £10.00; £2.50, £1.20, £1.70. DF: £12.20. CSF: £23.51 Tricast: £124.27

4.25 (2m 6f ch) 1, Teaplanter (Mr B Pollock, 4-9 fav); 2, Tuffnut George (5-2); 3, Hickelton Lad (7-1). 3 ran. 19l, dist. Miss C Saunders. Tote: £1.50. DF: £1.30 CSF: £1.89

4.55 (2m hdle) 1, Ring Of Vision (J Magee, 9-4); 2, Jamaican Flight (25-1); 3, Rising Dough (3-1). Mr Darcy 2-1 fav. 10 ran. 1¾l, 4l. C Mann. Tote. £3.60; £1.10, £4.40, £1.60. DF: £27.00. CSF: £55.31.

Placepot: £78.90. Quadpot: £28.50.

Uttoxeter

Going: good to firm, good in places

2.15 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Hayaain (T J O'Sullivan, 2-5 fav); 2, Arrogant Heir (16-1); 3, Ezanak (7-2). 4 ran. Nk, 2½l. K Bailey. Tote: £1.40. DF: £7.80. CSF: £6.78.

2.50 (2m 5f ch) 1, Good For A Laugh (O Burrows, 7-2); 2, Astral Invasion (12-1); 3, Fairy Park (11-1). Turpin's Green 11-4 fav. 12 ran. NR: Charlie Parrot, Spy Dessa. 15l, 5l. A Hobbs. Tote: £3.90; £1.50, £3.20, £9.10. DF: £26.70. CSF. £50.35. Tricast. £420.22.

3.25 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, El Freddie (G Upton, 5-2 fav); 2, Beechfield Flyer (12-1); 3, Cliburnel News (8-1). 12 ran. NR: Blazing Miracle, Joy For Life. Nk, 8l. J Old. Tote: £4.20; £1.90, £3.10, £3.40. DF: £19.70. CSF: £34.80. Tricast. £211.91.

4.00 (3m 2f ch) 1, Grizzly Bear (J Culloty, 14-1); 2, Loch Garman Hotel (7-4); 3, Final Beat (13-8 fav). 7 ran. 2l, 22l. R Stronge. Tote: £12.50; £3.50, £1.60. DF. £19.40. CSF £39.75.

4.35 (3m ch) 1, Carlingford Lakes (G Upton, 3-1); 2, Ballyea Boy (11-4); 3, Dark Oak (5-1). Imperial Vintage 7-4 fav. 5 ran. NR: Fiddlers Pike. 16l, 8l. T Thomson Jones. Tote. £4.30; £1.80, £1.40. DF. £6.60 CSF £11.58.

5.10 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Motoqua (Mr R Thornton, 6-4); 2, Kaytu's Carousel (16-1); 3, Riverbank Rose (10-1). Fantasy Line 11-8 fav (f). 9 ran. NR: Claudia Electric. 6l, 1¼l. D Nicholson. Tote: £2.70, £1.80, £4.00, £1.50. DF £39.20. CSF. £23.82.

Placepot: £183.40. Quadpot: £109.70.

Wetherby

Going: good, good to firm in places

2.15 (2m 7f hdle) 1, Barton Heights (P Niven, 5-2 jt-fav); 2, Jalmaid (11-4); 3, Mardood (33-1). Five Flags 5-2 jt-fav. 9 ran. NR: Crazy Horse Dancer, Greenfield Manor. ¾l, 7l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £3.50, £1.40, £1.30, £7.30. DF. £6.60. CSF £9.64. Tricast. £170.66.

2.45 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Brighter Shade (P Niven, 10-11 fav); 2, Ballyline (5-1); 3, Golden Hello (13-8). 4 ran. 3l, 12l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote. £1.90 DF £3.00 CSF: £5.49.

3.15 (2m hdle) 1, Good Vibes (L Wyer, 4-11 fav); 2, Ardarroch Prince (3-1); 3, Stardin Sam (33-1). 8 ran. 3l, 25l. T Easterby. Tote: £1.60, £1.20, £1.10, £4.50. DF. £1.40 CSF: £1.93.

3.45 (3m 1f ch) 1, Kenmore-Speed (R Guest, 5-1); 2, Deep Decision (7-1); 3, Royal Vacation (4-1). Random Harvest 5-4 fav (ur). 5 ran. 17l, 4l. Mrs S Smith. Tote. £5.70, £2.00, £2.20. DF £15.30 CSF. £32.32

4.15 (3m 1f ch) 1, Kings Sermon (L Wyer, 9-2); 2, Tico Gold (7-1); 3, Cool Weather (11-2). Gaelic Blue Evens fav (f). 6 ran. 11l, 1½l. P Beaumont. Tote: £5.10; £2.10, £3.40. DF £29.00. CSF. £32.10.

4.45 (2m hdle) 1, Kierchem (Mrs S Grant, 8-1); 2, Teejay'n'aitch (7-1); 3, Faithful Hand (3-1). Fryup Satellite Evens fav. 10 ran. 1¾l, 12l. C Grant. Tote: £10.30; £2.50, £1.80, £1.50. DF. £40.50. CSF: £61.53. Tricast: £194.28

Placepot: £190.00. Quadpot: £29.50.

Wincanton

Going: firm

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, Mrs Em (L Cummins, 2-1 jt-fav); 2, Royal Ruler (14-1); 3, Neat Feat (2-1 jt-fav). 9 ran. 1½l, 1¾l. P Nicholls. Tote: £3.10; £1.20, £3.20, £1.40. DF. £13.70. CSF: £31.88.

2.30 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Strokesaver (M Berry, 5-1); 2, Dromhana (4-7 fav). 6 ran. NR: Pocaire Gaoithe. 20l. C Brooks. Tote: £6.40, £2.30, £1.60. DF. £2.80. CSF. £8.70.

3.00 (2m hdle) 1, Proud Image (R Hobson, 2-1); 2, Ath Cheannaithe (5-1); 3, Almapa (3-1). Fleet Cadet 6-4 fav. 5 ran. 5l, 10l. G McCourt. Tote: £2.40; £1.40, £2.30. DF: £11.60 CSF. £12.51

3.30 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Sevso (P Henley, 11-2); 2, Miss Marigold (4-1); 3, Vintage Claret (2-1). Saniella Boy 6-5 fav (f). 4 ran. 2l, dist. R Baker. Tote: £8.30 DF. £13.50 CSF: £22.57

4.00 (2m ch) 1, Corpus (D J Kavanagh, 12-1); 2, Oliver Duckett (11-2). Northern Singer 13-8 fav. 5 ran. NR: Beau Babillard. 25l. R Hodges. Tote: £11.80; £3.20, £2.30. DF: £19.30. CSF: £61.79.

4.30 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Kilmington (P Hide, 9-4); 2, Southernhay Boy (16-1); 3, Regal Gem (7-2). Mr Strong Gale Evens fav. 8 ran. 15l, 3½l. J Gifford. Tote £3.30; £1.50, £4.50, £1.10. DF: £46.30 CSF: £37.43.

Placepot: £568.00.

Quadpot: not won (pool of £85.30 carried forward to Uttoxeter today).

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

East has a difficult defensive problem on this hand; try to look at the North and East cards only.

Dealer North **Love all** **Rubber bridge**

North:
♠K93
♥4
♦62
♣AKJ8765

West:
♠76
♥J92
♦AKJ87
♣943

East:
♠Q105
♥A85
♦Q10953
♣102

South:
♠AJ842
♥KQ10763
♦4
♣Q

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: ace of diamonds

North opened One Club and rebid Two Clubs over South's One Heart response. South then bid Two Spades, and continued with Three Spades over North's Three Clubs. North raised to Four Spades.

As East you encourage the diamond lead and your partner continues the suit. Declarer ruffs, cashes the queen of clubs on which West plays the three, and lays down the ace of spades. Are you ready?

If you now look at all four hands you can see what happens if East plays low on the spade. Declarer plays another spade to the king and runs clubs; all the defence take is a spade, a heart and a diamond.

On the ace of spades East dropped the queen. Placing West with 10765 of spades, declarer played a spade to the nine, intending to continue by running the clubs. But East won with the ten and returned a low heart. Unfortunately for him declarer's hearts were slightly too strong — South was able to rise with the king, and now had the rest of the tricks.

But notice what a great defence this would have been had South's hearts been slightly weaker. Say they were headed by the king-jack. If South misguesses and plays the jack, West wins and continues with another heart, and now declarer can no longer enjoy dummy's clubs.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Master McShane

Luke McShane, 13, the leading British chess protégé, has finally clinched his title of International Master at the Gelsenkirchen tournament in Germany. Luke had already achieved the International Master result twice before and this third performance assures him of the title. He is the youngest British player to achieve the feat.

This result leaves Luke with slightly less than a year to become a Grandmaster, the next international title up on the international ladder of chess achievement, and thus overhaul the recent world record by Etienne Bacrot.

It would be interesting to arrange a new match between Bacrot, who is bound soon to be recognised as France's premier exponent of chess, and one of *Britain's top grandmasters, either* Nigel Short or Michael Adams. This would be a contest in which, judging by Bacrot's recent results, the French teenager would not necessarily be regarded as the underdog.

French brilliance

After the days of Philidor, Britain and France contested for chess supremacy. In the 1830s the brilliant French master De La Bourdonnais emerged ahead in a series of matches against his Irish born rival McDonnell. Played in London, this marathon series of games captured the public imagination with the fiery concepts and love of risk displayed by both combatants. Although the matches definitely ended in the Frenchman's favour the ground was laid for later British challenges by Howard Staunton.

White: McDonnell
Black: De La Bourdonnais
London (Match) 1834

Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5
2 Nf3 Nc6
3 d4 cxd4
4 Nxd4 e5
5 Nxc6 bxc6
6 Bc4 Nf6
7 Bg5 Be7
8 Qe2 d5
9 Bxf6 Bxf6
10 Bb3 0-0
11 0-0 a5
12 exd5 cxd5
13 Rd1 d4
14 c4 Qb6
15 Bc2 Bb7
16 Nd2 Rae8
17 Ne4 Bd8
18 c5 Qc6
19 f3 Be7
20 Rac1 f5
21 Qc4+ Kh8
22 Ba4 Qh6
23 Bxe8 fxe4
24 c6 exf3
25 Rc2 Bc8
26 Bd7 Qe3+
27 Kh1 f2
28 Rf1 d3
29 Rc3 Bxd7
30 cxd7 e4
31 Qc8 Bd8
32 Qc4 Qe1
33 Rc1 d2
34 Qc5 Rg8
35 Rd1 e3
36 Qc3 Qxd1
37 Rxd1 e2
White resigns

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ABNEGATE
a. To repeal
b. To retract
c. To deny oneself

SAPOROUS
a. Soapy
b. Tasty
c. Learned

BOTHAN
a. A lager lout
b. A feast for Thanes
c. A hut

PARACME
a. Over the top
b. A Turkish litter
c. An aid

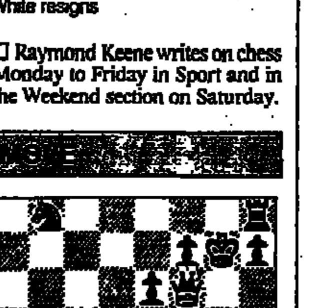
Answers on page 40

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Krakops — Novikov, Cappelle la Grande 1997. White has sacrificed a piece to expose the black king. He could now regain it by capturing on b5 but found something much stronger. Can you do as well?

Solution on page 40



RACING

Mudahim gives Pitman clean sweep of Nationals

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT AT FAIRYHOUSE

JENNY PITMAN *snatched* a Grand National full house from the jaws of defeat when Mudahim won an incident-packed Jameson Irish Grand National here yesterday.

After Mudahim and the local hope, Amble Speedy, had flashed past the winning post in a rousing finish to £100,000-added race, the bookmakers bowed to the popular view and made Amble Speedy 8-1 on to get the verdict in the photo finish.

Jason Titley, Mudahim's jockey, seemed to agree and, after congratulating Amble Speedy's *rider, Fran Woods*, blamed the bypassing of the third- and second-last fences for Mudahim's "defeat".

The announcement that Mudahim had gained the decision sparked a disbelieving happiness in the Pitman camp and completed the Lambourn *trainer's* clean sweep of the four Grand Nationals. She has won the Welsh version three times, twice been successful at Aintree and yesterday's success accompanied Willsford's victory in the Scottish National. Pitman joins Martin Pipe among modern trainers to have completed the remarkable *quartet of victories.*

"To come here today and win like this is a dream come true," Pitman said. "I thought we had lost and Jason came back and said 'sorry Mrs P'. I said 'I can't complain. He has *run so well*'."

Titley, who won at Aintree for Pitman on Royal Athlete *in* 1995, was equally surprised to have got the decision, but it completed a good race for English-trained horses as the topweight and favourite, The Grey Monk, finished third.

Tony Dobbin, The Grey Monk's jockey, said: "The ground was just far too firm. He never let himself down, *even when he was jumping.*"

The riders of the principals insisted that their horses were not helped by missing out the third- and second-last fences on the final circuit. The Noel Meade-trained pair, Coq Hardi Affair and The Latvian Lark, fell at those fences *respectively on the first circuit* and both had to be put down.

Woods was bitterly disappointed after initially believing he had won his third Irish Grand National in four years. "When we pulled up Jason *actually said 'well done'.* I knew it was tight but I thought I had it. My fellow could have done with those two fences being left in but I was about half a length up until the last 50 yards when he started to hang."

The ante-post gamble of the race, Papillon, *finished fourth* but it was Pitman's day as she revealed how she changed the owner's mind about running at Fairyhouse. "I wanted to run here, the owners wanted to run at Aintree on Saturday *and I told them that that was a* mistake," Pitman said. "I *thought the Aintree fences* would be too big. It has worked out perfectly."

Among the other English challengers, Aardwolf fell at the second fence, Sister Stephanie refused to start, while Giventime was pulled up before halfway by Luke Harvey.

At *Fairyhouse today*, Dorans Pride, third in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, reappears in the Power Gold Cup. He looks too strong for the John O'Shea-trained Bell Staffboy.

BIG-RACE RESULT

3.55 JAMESON IRISH GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (£82,700. 3m 5f)
1, MUDAHIM .... J Titley, 13-2
2, Amble Speedy .... F Woods, 14-1
3, The Grey Monk ...... A Dobbin, 9-2 fav
4, Papillon .... C Swan, 6-1

ALSO RAN: 10 Giventime (pu), Sister Stephanie (r), 14 Lord Singapore (6th), Percy Smollett (pu), The Latvian Lark (f), 16 Aardwolf (f), 20 Coq Hardi Affair (f), Fissure Seal, Heist, St Mellion Fairway (5th), Teal Bridge (f), 33 Consharon (pu), Corymandel, Flashy Lad, 50 Church Law, Trench Hill Lass (pu). 20 ran. NR: Royal Mountbrowne. Sh hd, 11, 2l, 25l, 3l. Mrs J Pitman at Lambourn. Tote: £5.00, £1.40, £3.90, £2.30, £1.60. DF: £90.00. Trio: £101.30. CSF: £79.34. Tricast: £427.72.

PITMAN'S NATIONAL HEROES

GRAND NATIONAL
1983 Corbiere
1995 Royal Athlete

WELSH NATIONAL
1982 Corbiere
1983 Burrough Hill Lad
1986 Stearsby

SCOTTISH NATIONAL
1995 Willsford

IRISH NATIONAL
1997 Mudahim

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Strathmore Clear, given a forceful ride by Pat Eddery, wins division one of the Stark Maiden Stakes at Kempton Park yesterday

Lewis comes in from the wilderness

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE most depressing spell in Geoff Lewis's training career ended abruptly and joyously at sunkissed Kempton yesterday when the popular Epsom handler saddled a 135-1 double.

When a bug or virus lays low a *stable of horses, the despair soon sets* in. Those horses that are deemed well enough to run invariably disappoint, and visits to the winner's enclosure become a distant memory. For Lewis, 1996 was a nightmare.

"It's awful. If anyone tells you just *to be patient, they are talking* rubbish. Most people have gone through it but *I have been fortunate as last season* was my first bad year since I started training in 1980," Lewis explained.

The rot set in last summer when his string was struck by a throat infection, and at the start of racing yesterday *Lewis had gone 218 days without a* winner, during which time he sent out 88 runners.

Strathmore Clear finally ended the months in the wilderness when he just prevailed in a blanket finish to justify a gamble from 7-1 to 11-2 in the *opening division of the Stark Maiden* Stakes. The understandable knock to *his confidence meant Lewis did not* avail himself of the odds. "It's the only time I haven't backed him," he said.

However, the joy of having a winner more than compensated for missing out on the gamble and Eastern Prophets confirmed the wellbeing of *the Lewis horses when holding on to* win the Teal Handicap. "My owners *have been more than just patient and* hopefully we will keep going through the season. It is just a lovely feeling to have the horses running well."

The sense of relief felt by Lewis was shared by Michael Tabor as Dr *Massini, one-time favourite for the* Derby last year, showed he had lost none of his sparkle by winning the Magnolia Stakes in sparkling style. Dr Massini, who was withdrawn only days before the Epsom classic when he went lame, subsequently disappointed *in the Irish Derby and did* not race again last year.

With Prince Of My Heart *setting a* sedate pace, the race developed into a sprint in the short straight and although Dr Massini was several lengths off the lead, he produced a striking turn of foot to win going away by 2½ lengths.

As long as he remains sound, Dr Massini looks likely to be aimed at *some of the best middle distance prizes* this term and provide his owner with more betting opportunities. "I helped myself today — 11-10 was a very good price," Tabor said.

Daragh O'Donohue enjoyed a *dream start to his riding career in* Britain when he partnered Monaassib to a comfortable success in the City Industrial Supplies Conditions Stakes. The 24-year-old Dubliner recently joined Ed Dunlop as the Newmarket trainer's apprentice having spent eight years with Dermot Weld in Ireland, during which time he *rode 57 winners, including two consec*utive November Handicaps.

Romios has not always appeared the most genuine performer, but Richard Quinn gave the Paul Cole-trained five-year-old a peach of a ride to lead late in the Coral Rosebery Handicap. *Cole will be back at* Kempton today to give Putra, winner *of the Richmond Stakes last summer,* a racecourse gallop in preparation for the 2,000 Guineas. "He's done well from two to three and has been working well. He will probably go straight for the Guineas."

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER
2.10 APOLLONO (nap)
2.40 My Nominee
3.10 Oakbury
3.40 Callisoe Bay
4.10 Serious
4.40 Pearl Epee
5.10 Laburnum Gold

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.40 PEARL EPEE.

Carl Evans: 2.40 My Nominee.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.10 CENTRAL TELECOM/SDX NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,537: 2m) (15 runners)

101 1-45310 I'M A DREAMER 18F (D,F,G) (Miss M Rowland) Miss M Rowland 7-11-13 Gary Lyons 94
102 16P25P ALPINE MIST 27 (V,D,F) (Catch-42) J O'Shea 5-11-6 .... M A Fitzgerald 91
103 501001 STYLISH INTERVAL 14 (D,F) (Mrs J Waggott) N Waggott 5-11-4 Mr R Thornton (5) 90
104 406 CYPHRATIS 54 (Mallcom Plc & Mr P Whelan) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-3 .. D Leahy 93
105 045230 DARK PHOENIX 20 (BF,G) (O Brennan) O Brennan 7-10-10 .... M Brennan 97
106 30-2365 *GOLF LAND 77 (Mrs J Featherer) L Lungo 5-10-10* .... *M Foster* 96
107 0-55343 DESERT CALM 13 (B) (R Fuller) P Evans 8-10-8 .... D Walsh 98
108 2-00001 KILDRUMMY CASTLE 14 (CD,F) (Kildrummy Part'ship) J Fitzgerald 5-10-6 F Leahy (3) 97
109 0F-0564 O MY LOVE 50 (M Wiles) Miss H Knight 6-10-6 .... J Osborne 85
110 020U21 NIGHT BOAT 10 (G) (M Bay-Cotton, V Lockley & J Davies) W Clay 6-10-6 Guy Lewis (3) [illegible]
111 43FFP2 COUNTRY MINSTREL 14 (S Douch) S Douch 6-10-0 .... C Rae 98
112 F005 APOLLONO 14 (Walgrove International Ltd) R Lee 5-10-0 .... R Johnson 95
113 0P/503 *WORTHY MEMORIES 8 (Mrs E Bousquet-Payne) Mrs M Jones 8-10-0* .... *Derek Byrne* 98
114 500 FENCER'S QUEST 33 (S Paxton) T Forster 4-10-0 .... S Wynne –
115 0/60- ERIN'S LAD 557 (A Smith) R Dickin 6-10-0 .... J Culloty 82

Long handicap: *Apollono 9-12, Worthy Memories 9-12, Fencer's Quest 9-10, Erin's Lad 9-7.*

BETTING: 11-4 Kildrummy Castle, 6-1 Cyphratis, 8-1 I'm A Dreamer, O My Love, Country Minstrel, 10-1 Stylish Interval, 12-1 others.

1996: *GOLDWYN 4-10-13 A P McCoy (9-1) D Nicholson 15 ran*

FORM FOCUS

I'M A DREAMER beat Silly Money neck in 10-runner conditional jockeys' handicap hurdle at Doncaster *(2m 110yd, good) on penultimate start*, with DARK PHOENIX (10lb better off) 10¾l 5th. ALPINE MIST best recent effort head 2nd of 9 to Steadfast Elite in conditional jockeys' handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m, good). STYLISH INTERVAL beat Swatu 1l in novice hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 1f, good to firm). DARK PHOENIX 14l 3rd of 14 to Nigel's Lad in maiden hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good) on penultimate start. DESERT CALM 19¾l 3rd of 8 to Above The Cut in handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good to firm). KILDRUMMY CASTLE beat COUNTRY MINSTREL (2lb better off) ½l in conditional jockeys' novice handicap hurdle over course *and distance (good to firm)* with APOLLONO (2lb better off) about 3½l 5th.
Selection: STYLISH INTERVAL

2.40 MOUNT ARGUS HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,585: 2m 7f) (9 runners)

201 3P/P6-P BABIL 22 (F,G,S) (Mrs C Hicks) Mrs C Hicks 12-12-3 .... J Trice-Rolph (5) 80
202 /23F DOUBLE COLLECT 15 (F,S) (Mrs M Rebori) Mrs M Rebori 11-12-3 N F Smith (7) 88
203 724- FRANK BE LUCKY 432 (G,S) Ms B Ashby-Jones 11-12-3 .... R Thornton (5) –
204 PF IDIOMATIC 9P (Mrs S Shone) Mrs S Shone 8-12-3 .... R Thomas (7) –
205 1B-F5 IDIOTIC 46 (D,F,G,S) (E Knight) P Chamings 9-12-3 .... C Vigors (5) –
206 513-BP0 KING OF SHADOWS 13 (C,G) (C James) *Miss C Carden 10-12-3* *S Prior (7)* –
207 -3421P MY NOMINEE 9P (B,CD,F,G,S) (D Nicholls) D Nicholls 9-12-3 .... R Burton (7) 96
208 21-F3PU PRO BONO 10 (F,G) (P Cardwell) A Morgan 7-12-3 .... A Sansome (5) [illegible]
209 PP0 *RISING SAP 22 (G) (J Downes) J Downes 7-12-3* .... M Munrowd (7) –

BETTING: 9-4 My Nominee, 7-2 Double Collect, 6-1 Idiotic, Pro Bono, 7-1 King Of Shadows, 8-1 Frank Be Lucky, 12-1 others.

1996: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

DOUBLE COLLECT 31l 3rd of 11 to Sleeveramon *Mist in amateur riders'* hunter chase at Doncaster (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. FRANK BE LUCKY 6l 4th of 9 to Wacko Jacko in handicap chase at Towcester (2m 4f, heavy). MY NOMINEE beat Tara Boy 10l in 3-runner open at Eaton Hall (3m, good to firm). PRO BONO 12¾l 3rd of 10 to Cab On Target in amateur riders' hunter chase at Fakenham (2m 5f 110yd, good) with *IDIOTIC* dist 5th. RISING SAP 64l 8th of 12 to Orchestral Suite in amateur riders' novice hunter chase (3m, good) with BABIL pulled up 4l out.
Selection: MY NOMINEE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
O Sherwood	18	65	27.7	J Osborne	28	93	30.1
J Fitzgerald	8	34	23.5	Martin Brennan	6	26	23.1
N Henderson	7	30	23.3	D Walsh	5	22	22.7
S Eccleston	11	48	22.9	D Bridgwater	20	111	18.0
D Nicholson	21	93	22.6	D Gallagher	10	64	15.6
K Bailey	25	116	21.6	S McNeill	8	52	15.4

RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS
UTTOXETER 101 201
WETHERBY 102 202
SOUTHWELL 103 203
IRISH 120 220
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

3.10 MARSTON'S FREE TRADE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,858: 2m 4f 110yd) (14 runners)

301 4-10450 WHITE WILLOW 10 (B,F,G,S) (P Stringer) T Wall 8-12-0 .... R Johnson 97
302 P203-21 EDWARD SEYMOUR 20 (D,G,S) (W Jenks) W Jenks 10-11-5 .... T Jenks 90
303 01P5-00 GRACE CARD 19 (B,G,S) (G Farndon) B Cambidge 11-11-4 .... S Wynne –
304 42260 BLUNTSWOOD HALL 38 (J Smith) P Hollinshead 4-11-3 .... Gary Lyons 91
305 40-1440 CRAZY HORSE DANCER 25 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs P Rodney) F Jordan 9-11-1 L Aspell (3) 93
306 6-04500 WORDSMITH 18 (B,G,S) (A Crusoe) J L Harris 7-11-0 .... D Gallagher 98
307 033203 SALTIS 113 (T Forbes) A Forbes 5-10-12 .... P Henley (3) 91
308 P30-02F SHEECKY 49 (S) (Mrs A Beard) B McMahon 6-10-9 .... D Bridgwater 91
309 4-6064P CAPTAIN NAVAR 39 (A Smith) J G O'Shea 7-10-5 .... M A Fitzgerald [illegible]
310 332030 OAKBURY 15 (Townville C C Racing Club) Miss L Siddall 5-10-4 .... C Maude 96
311 5P550 QUIET MOMENTS 32 (The Furniture Store) P Murphy 4-10-3 .... W McFarland 90
312 P56060 ADMIRAL'S GUEST 49 (G Achterberg) W Clay 5-10-1 .... *Guy Lewis (3)* 86
313 0-00200 POLO PONY 61 (T Palin) J Upson 5-10-0 .... J Supple 93
314 000 BITES 49 (W Meath) T Sail 4-10-0 .... J Railton –

Long handicap: Bites 9-8

BETTING: 7-2 Edward Seymour, 5-1 White Willow, 6-1 Saltis, 8-1 Bluntswood Hall, Crazy Horse Dancer, 10-1 Sheecky, Oakbury, 12-1 others.

1996: RAY RIVER 4-11-0 J Ryan (20-1) F Whitgrove 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

WHITE WILLOW about 14½l 5th of 10 to Sweet Trentino in claiming hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, *good to firm) on penultimate start*. EDWARD SEYMOUR beat Code Red 1½l in 10-runner selling handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, good). CRAZY HORSE DANCER 27l 4th of 7 to Red Valerian in handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 5f 110yd, good to firm). SALTIS 7l 3rd of 12 to Colwall in novice handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m 5f 110yd, good to firm). CAPTAIN NAVAR about 8¾l 4th of 8 to Drum Battle in novice hurdle at Ludlow *(2m 5f 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start.* OAKBURY 5l 3rd of 8 to Spitfire Bridge in selling handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good). ADMIRAL'S GUEST about 30l 6th of 14 to Dinaan in selling novice hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f good) on penultimate start.
Selection: WHITE WILLOW

3.40 CJ PEARCE HANDICAP CHASE (£4,856. 2m 4f) (3 runners)

401 122U00 CALLISOE BAY 38 (C,F,G,S) (P Waters) O Sherwood 8-11-10 .... J Osborne [illegible]
402 F11142 BEATSON 54 (F,G,S) (Mrs E Gardiner) R Buckler 5-10-6 .... B Powell 92
403 1F54U6 PLUNDER BAY 31 (D,F,S) (W & Mrs E Robins) N Henderson 6-10-2 M A Fitzgerald 93

BETTING: Evens Callisoe Bay, 5-2 Beatson, Plunder Bay.

1996: LARRY'S LORD 7-10-10 A P McCoy (7-4 fav) P Nicholls 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

CALLISOE BAY 24l 8th of 9 to Shining Edge in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). BEATSON 5l 2nd of 4 to Challenger Du Luc in *conditions chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good to* firm). PLUNDER BAY 59½l 6th of 9 to Garnwin in novice handicap chase at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good).
Selection: CALLISOE BAY (nap)

4.10 MOBILEFONE GROUP HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,756. 2m) (7 runners)

501 0-312P0 STAR RAGE 19 (D,F,G) (J Abell) J L Harris 7-11-11 .... D Gallagher 93
502 0-42065 CHARMING GIRL 31 (CD,G,S) (C Cohen) O Sherwood 6-11-3 .... J Osborne 96
503 204-41F TEJANO GOLD 86 (CD,G,S) (P Bradley) P Bradley 7-10-12 .... S Wynne [illegible]
504 4540PU MR BUREAUCRAT 29 (CD,BF,F) (S Clarke) S Brookshaw 8-10-7 .... C Maude 94
505 322311 DARAKSHAN 27 (F,G,S) (M Watt) Miss H Knight 5-10-0 .... J Culloty 90
506 060335- TEST MATCH 318 (CD,G,S) (K Dutton) W Clay 10-10-0 .... Guy Lewis (3) 83
507 1-0 SERIOUS 112 (CD,BF,F) (T and D Lousada) K Bailey 7-10-0 .... S McNeill 80

Long handicap: Test Match 9-7, Serious 9-7

BETTING: 7-4 Darakshan, 7-2 Tejano Gold, 9-2 Charming Girl, 6-1 Star Rage, 10-1 Mr Bureaucrat, Serious, 14-1 Test Match.

1996: HOLY WANDERER 7-10-5 B Fenton (7-2) T George 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

STAR RAGE best recent effort 1¼l 2nd of 9 to Shining Edge in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). CHARMING GIRL 21l 5th of 8 to *More Dash Thancash in handicap hurdle at Doncaster* (2m 110yd, good).
TEJANO GOLD beat Master Tribe 5l in 7-runner *handicap hurdle here (2m, soft) on penultimate* start, with MR BUREAUCRAT (11lb better off) 7½l 4th. DARAKSHAN completed double beat Zander ½l in 14-runner novice hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f *good to soft). TEST MATCH about 26l 5th of 12 to* Hedgehopper in novice chase at Bangor (2m 1f 110yd, good).
Selection: STAR RAGE

4.40 CJ PEARCE NOVICES CHASE (£3,550. 2m 5f) (6 runners)

601 F-60P11 QUITE A MAN 8 (C,F,S) (W Everall) S Brookshaw 9-12-0 .... C Maude 92
602 5F4P31 PEARL EPEE 10 (G) (Mrs A Shutes) D Nicholson 8-11-3 .... *R Johnson* [illegible]
603 PU433F GLAMANGLITZ 29 (Mrs J Martin) P Dalton 7-11-2 .... Mr R Thornton (5) 93
604 2/50-304 RARE OCCURANCE 31 (R Harris) J O'Shea 7-11-2 .... P Henley (3) –
605 6064/33 SANTARAY 7 *(G,S) (S Taberner)* T Donnelly 11-11-2 .... Mr R Armson 88
606 02454F TOTAL ASSET 14 (T Forbes) A Forbes 7-11-2 .... Gary Lyons 91

BETTING: 4-6 Pearl Epee, 9-2 Quite A Man, 6-1 Glamanglitz, Santaray, 12-1 Rare Occurance, 14-1 Total Asset.

1996: MERLIN'S LAD 7-11-2 M A Fitzgerald (5-6 fav) J Edwards 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

QUITE A MAN completed double beat Fyfon Run 16l in 6-runner novice handicap chase at Ludlow (2m 4f, good to firm). PEARL EPEE beat Campeche Bay 21l in 10-runner maiden chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, good). GLAMANGLITZ 11¾l 3rd of *7 to Noyan in novice handicap chase at Doncaster* (3m 3f 110yd, good) on penultimate start. RARE OCCURANCE 49l 4th of 10 to Nigel's Lad in novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f good). *SANTARAY 25½l 3rd of 9 to Chorus Line in novice* chase at Southwell (2m, good). TOTAL ASSET 29l 4th of 11 to Teinein in novice chase at Stratford *(2m 4f good).*
Selection: PEARL EPEE

5.10 JENKINSONS CATERERS MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,432. 2m) (12 runners)

1 0-B6055 ALPHA LEATHER 31 (Poultry Racing) L Grassick 6-11-6 .... Mr J Grassick 70
2 6-003 FRENO 59 (P Mathews) K Bailey 6-11-6 .... S McNeill 88
3 *0/00- IF ONLY 496 (D Lowe) P Hollinshead 7-11-6* .... Gary Lyons –
4 0/P00-PF JASONS FARM 17 (T Darlington) W Clay 7-11-6 .... Guy Lewis (3) –
5 23220-F KALADROSS 139 (R Howells) W Jenks 6-11-6 .... T Jenks –
6 P KNOCK STAR 24 (J Mayo) P Champion 6-11-6 .... B Powell –
7 5-F40 LABURNUM GOLD 77 (A Napier and R & D Johnson) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-6 D Leahy 98
8 POLAR WIND 866F (C Waggott) N Waggott 6-11-6 .... M Foster –
9 SICARIAN 178F (F Barr Stud) Mrs M Jones 5-11-6 .... Derek Byrne –
10 02 SUVALU 14 (Aim High Partnership) M Meagher 5-11-6 .... M A Fitzgerald 86
11 F/3-3F VADLAWYS 10 (S Clarke) S Brookshaw 6-11-6 .... C Maude [illegible]
12 P KING OF SPARTA 69 (S Sherwood) O Sherwood 4-11-0 .... D Bridgwater –

BETTING: 5-1 Vadlawys, 7-2 Laburnum Gold, 5-1 King Of Sparta, 6-1 Freno, 9-1 Kaladross, 10-1 Suvalu, Sicarian, 14-1 others.

1996: COUNTRY STAR 5-11-6 G Bradley (11-1) C Brooks 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

ALPHA LEATHER dist 5th of 14 to Mandate in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good). FRENO 9l 3rd of 5 to King Of Camelot in novice hurdle at Stratford (2m 110yd, good). IF ONLY 53l 7th of 12 to Dictum in National Hunt Flat race at Chepstow (2m 110yd, soft).
LABURNUM GOLD 23l 9th of 20 to High Weald in novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft). SUVALU 1l 2nd of 11 to Stylish Interval in novice hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 1f, good to firm). VADLAWYS 29l 3rd of 15 to Silver Thyne in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good) on penultimate start.
Selection: *VADLAWYS*

Potentate adds gloss to Chepstow record

CHEPSTOW course specialist Potentate continued his winning ways at the Welsh track yesterday when leading home a Martin Pipe one-two in the Welsh Champion Hurdle. The Jamie Evans-partnered six-year-old made every yard of *the running to defy stable* companion Daraydan by six lengths and extend his unbeaten record at Chepstow to six.

"That is why I came here today," Pipe said. "They should name a race after him *now as he always wins here* and simply loves the track. I was a bit worried about the ground for him as he likes some cut, but I didn't think we could beat Mistinguett," the champion trainer, who last won the race with High Knowl ten years ago, said.

Evans had earlier steered home his first winner at the course after Out Ranking made all in the Springtime Claiming Hurdle to initiate a double for the rider and Pipe.

Stan Mellor is already considering next season's Whitbread Gold Cup for Seod Rioga after the gelding easily landed the Fulke Walwyn Handicap Chase, *defeating* Harwell Lad by six lengths in *the hands of Nicky Mann.*

"He should have won this last year but he jumped the last and the saddle slipped," Mellor said. "He loves this fast ground and could be a Whitbread horse next term after he's won a few races and gone up the weights."

Zander, trained by Nigel Twiston-Davies, beat Major *Dundee by 1¾ lengths in the* Castle Novices' Hurdle and foiled a treble for Pipe and Evans.

☐ *British television viewers* are almost certain to see live coverage of the rescheduled Dubai World Cup on Thursday. The $4 million event, postponed because of torrential rain on Saturday, is likely to be shown either on Channel 4 or BBC. Channel 4 will cover the race if Head of Programmes, John Willis, can be persuaded to replace *Rikki Lake* in its schedule, but BBC coverage is conditional on the start time being brought forward by 45 *minutes so that it* can be added to the programme from Aintree.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: O MY LOVE
(2.10 Uttoxeter)
Next best: Darakshan
(4.10 Uttoxeter)

Dettori's treble

FRANKIE DETTORI, *determined to regain the champion jockeys' title from Pat Eddery,* returned from Dubai with a *12-1 treble at Newcastle yesterday.* He won on Minersville and *Perfect Paradigm* for John Gosden, and partnered *Stately* Princess to victory for Mick Channon.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
2.00 Dancing Cavalier. 2.30 Kalamata. 3.00 Fourdaned. 3.30 Palacegate Jack. 4.00 Julia's *Relative*. 4.30 Patina.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.00 APRIL FOOL APPRENTICES HANDICAP
(£2,305: 1m 6f) (9 runners)

1 2112 RAFFLES ROOSTER 12 (C,G) A Newcombe 5-9-12 M Batchelor 4
2 14-5 BEAUMONT 29J (C,D,BF,F,G,S) J Banks 7-9-11 .. D Denby 9
3 115- SEDBERGH 284 (D,F) Mrs M Reveley 4-9-10 P Fredericks (4) 6
4 *0241 DANCING CAVALIER 6 (C,D,G) R Hollinshead 4-9-3 (5ex)* D Hayden (6) 3
5 50-3 ALL ON 7 (C,G) J Hetherton 6-9-1 .... T Siddall (4) 1
6 4104 FORZAIR 29 (C,G) J J O'Neill 5-8-13 .... *C Lowther (4)* 5
7 512/ FAIR AND FANCY 357J (CD,G) Miss M Milligan 6-7-11 R Cody-Boutcher (4) 8
8 4502 UNDAWATERSCUBADIVA 14J (C,G) M Bielby 5-7-10 *J Fowle (4)* 7
9 0-05 MAY KING MAYHEM 5 Mrs A King 4-7-10 .. P Doe 2

7-2 Beaumont, 4-1 Raffles Rooster, Dancing Cavalier, 5-1 Sedbergh, 6-1 All On, 8-1 Undawaterscubadiva, 12-1 Forzair, 14-1 others.

2.30 SWAN CLAIMING STAKES (£2,277: 2m) (8)

1 120/ SAINT KEYNE 68J (F,G) D Williams 7-9-8 .. D Griffiths (3) 8
2 *-240 PREMIER LEAGUE 25J (G,S) J Long 7-9-4 Leesa Long* 7
3 1520 SHAHYR 7 (B,C,D,G) R Hollinshead 6-9-2 .. F Lynch (3) 2
4 3404 EL NIDO 32 (CD,BF,F,G,S) D Chapman 9-9-0 .. L Charnock 6
5 4150 KALAMATA 12 (C,G) J Glover 5-9-0 .. N Day 1
6 -026 LORDAN VELVET 18 Mrs W Allen 5-8-10 .. L Newton 4
7 0-00 TOP PRIZE 7 (V,CD,F,G) M Brittain 9-8-9 .. G Bardwell 3
8 -636 WORLD WITHOUT END 15J (B,S) M Sowersby 8-8-8 *R Havlin (3)* 5

7-4 El Nido, 3-1 Kalamata, 9-2 Shahyr, 8-1 Lordan Velvet, 10-1 Saint Keyne, Top Prize, 12-1 others.

3.00 HERON MAIDEN HANDICAP
(£3,070: 1m 3f) (14)

1 00-5 FOURDANED 12 P Harris 4-10-0 .. G Duffield 11
2 *000- FORMIDABLE FLAME 161 W Musson 4-9-6 .. G Carter* 10
3 330- GULF OF SIAM 14J J Mackie 4-9-6 .. M Birch 9
4 2420 ZATOPEK 18 J Cullinan 5-9-3 .. J Quinn 3
5 2422 ZORBA 17 C Thornton 3-8-8 .. D McKeown 7
6 030- MOORBIRD 154 M Johnston 3-8-7 .. J Weaver 12
7 000- MELOMANIA 206 S Bowring 5-8-5 .. N Adams 13
8 0205 HORNPIPE 31 (B) J Wharton 5-7-10 .. F Norton 8
9 *0/64 HAPPY BRAVE 18J P Cundell 5-7-10 .. J Lowe* 4
10 230- MONTE CAVO 178 M Brittain 6-7-10 .. G Bardwell 14
11 060/ EVAPORATE 586 M Heaton-Ellis 5-7-10 .. J Fowle (7) 1
12 006- MADAM LUCY 269 W Haigh 3-7-10 .. J Bramhill (5) 6
13 2560 ACERBUS DULCIS 18J M Chapman 6-7-10 Iona Wands (7) 2
14 4-06 SIR ALIDAF 32 D O'Neill 3-7-10 .. P Fessey (5) 5

5-2 Zorba, 5-1 Hornpipe, Happy Brave, 6-1 Monte Cavo, 8-1 Moorbird, 10-1 Fourdaned, 12-1 others.

3.30 DAVID ARMES HANDICAP (£3,044: 5f) (14)

1 0-55 DAAWE 11 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs V Aconley 6-10-0 .. M Deering 9
2 6-45 PALACEGATE JACK 62 (CD,F,G,S) C Dwyer 6-10-0 L Dettori 6
3 4050 CHADWELL HALL 32 (B,C,D,F,G,S) S Bowring 6-9-12 K Sked (7) 7
4 10-0 SMART GUEST 3 (B,G,S) D Shaw 5-9-11 .. J Fanning 1
5 000- AL REET 150 (G,S) S Bowring 6-9-9 .. F Boyle (7) 3
6 20-5 QUEENS CHECK 5 (CD,G,S) *Miss J Craze 4-9-8* S Webster 2
7 5222 AFAAN 15 R Marvin 4-9-4 .. T G McLaughlin 12
8 5221 HOH MAJESTIC 15 (V,C,D,F,G) R Thompson 4-9-3 *J Bramhill (5)* 14
9 00-0 CHEEKY CHAPPY 80 (B,D,F,G,S) D Chapman 6-8-13 A Culhane 5
10 0030 LOCHON 17 (V,D,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 6-8-8 C Teague (3) 11
11 60-6 RUNS IN THE FAMILY 19 (S) G McCourt 5-8-5 G Carter 10
12 0-30 DISSENTOR 71 (B,C,G) J Glover 5-7-11 .. L Charnock 13
13 00-0 GINAS GIRL 15 D Shaw 4-7-10 .. N Kennedy 8
14 *5030 TUTU SIXTYSIX 15 (B,D,F,G) E Incisa 6-7-10 Kim Tinkler* 4

3-1 Hoh Majestic, 9-2 Afaan, 5-1 Palacegate Jack, 10-1 Chadwell Hall, Daawe, Lochon, 12-1 others.

4.00 JAY SELLING STAKES *(3-Y-O: £1,985: 6f) (9)*

1 6034 ADVANCE REPRO 24 (B,D,F,G) J Akehurst 8-11 .. M Tebbutt 8
2 000- ANTARES 228 N Tinkler 8-11 .. Kim Tinkler 5
3 000 HEATHYARD'S FLIGHT 10 R Hollinshead 8-11 .. W Ryan 6
4 4333 JACK SAYS 43 (B) D Shaw 8-11 .. J Fanning 1
5 3501 MA VIELLE POUQUE 15 (C,G) W G M Turner 8-11 T Sprake 4
6 *00-0 UNKNOWN TERRITORY 29 (B) R Thompson 8-11* T Williams 3
7 CARRIE'S FANTASY A Newcombe 8-6 .. J Marshall 9
8 3- COSCOROBA 248 J Berry 8-6 .. P Fessey (5) 7
9 3262 JULIA'S RELATIVE 24 (B) R Guest 8-6 .. L Dettori 2

5-2 Julia's Relative, 11-4 Ma Vielle Pouque, 3-1 Jack Says, 9-2 Coscoroba, 10-1 Advance Repro, 16-1 Unknown Territory, 20-1 others.

4.30 PEACOCK HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,277: 7f) (7)

1 05-1 GRESATRE 29 (C,G) C Dwyer 9-7 .. Jo Hunnam (7) 7
2 1264 HEVER GOLF CHARGER 5 (D,BF,G) T Naughton 9-6 D Holland 4
3 300- AL AVA CONSONANT 188 J Bethell 9-5 .. J Weaver 3
4 06-4 TAYOVULLIN 24 H Morrison 9-1 .. C Rutter 6
5 -203 PATINA 17 R Hollinshead 8-12 .. L Dettori 2
6 -250 WARP DRIVE 18 W Muir 8-7 .. Dane O'Neill 5
7 *0-65 APICULATE 32 S Bowring 7-10 .. P Fessey (5)* 1

9-4 Patina, 5-2 Hever Golf Charger, 4-1 Gresatre, 8-1 Warp Drive, 10-1 Al Ava Consonant, Tayovullin, 16-1 Apiculate.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 23 winners from 91 runners, 25.3%; M Johnston, 50 from 220, 22.7%; J Banks, 8 from 37, 21.6%; P Harris, 3 from 15, 20.0%; A Newcombe, 4 from 24, 16.7%; W Haigh, 20 from *123, 16.3%.*

JOCKEYS: D Denby, 3 winners from 11 rides, 27.3%; D Holland, 22 from 104, 21.2%; R Havlin, 3 from 15, 20.0%; L Dettori, 36 from 181, *19.9%; J Weaver, 52 from 266, 19.5%; Jo Hunnam, 4 from 24, 16.7%.*

Blinkered first time

SOUTHWELL: 4.00 Unknown Territory. UTTOXETER: 3.10 Wordsmith. WETHERBY: 4.50 Fox Sparrow.

WETHERBY

THUNDERER
2.20 Spritzer. 2.50 Regal Romper. 3.20 Fired Earth. 3.50 Ivy House. 4.20 Denim Blue. 4.50 Desert Fighter.

Carl Evans: 4.20 Denim Blue.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.20 W CLIFFORD WATTS LTD NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,265: 2m 4f 110yd) (11 runners)

1 1-01 NORTHERN STAR 20 (F,G) J Pickering 6-11-6 Miss J Wormall (7) 87
2 1534 RULE OUT THE REST 152 (F) Mrs S Horner-Harker 6-11-6 A Thornton 82
3 4125 SPRITZER 34 (BF,G) J Fitzgerald 5-11-1 .. W Dwan [illegible]
4 0P0 BORDER IMAGE 26 F Murtagh 6-11-0 .. A Dobbin –
5 0428 CHARLEY LAMBERT 14 J Mackie 6-11-0 .. E Husband (3) 96
6 302 MAJOR HARRIS 11 M Hammond 5-11-0 .. R Garritty 95
7 000 PRAISE BE 17 T Tate 7-11-0 .. J Callaghan 70
8 5432 SOUTHERN CROSS 8 (S) M W Easterby 5-11-0 P Niven 95
9 35-0 THE ROAD WEST 59 (S) J Eyre 8-11-0 .. B Storey –
10 *-03F TWEEDSWOOD 17 P Beaumont 7-11-0 .. R Supple* 98
11 0031 PONTEVEDRA 21 (F) K Morgan 4-10-8 .. N Horrocks (7) 90

4-1 Charley Lambert, 5-1 Southern Cross, Spritzer, 6-1 Major Harris, Pontevedra, 9-1 Northern Star, Tweedswood, 10-1 others.

2.50 FERDY MURPHY'S OWNERS HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,171: 2m) (4)

1 0-3F DE JORDAAN 153 (CD,F,G) W Cunningham 10-12-0 N Smith 90
2 2224 REGAL ROMPER 21 (CD,F,G) Mrs S Smith 9-11-4 .. R Guest [illegible]
3 *1533 GROUSE-N-HEATHER 17 (D,BF,F,S) P Monteith 8-10-3* A Dobbin 93
4 62P5 REBEL KING 26 (D,F,G) M Barnes 7-10-0 .. B Storey 98

9-4 De Jordaan, 5-2 Regal Romper, 11-4 Grouse-N-Heather, 7-2 Rebel King.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 48 winners from 183 runners, 26.2%; T Easterby, 9 from 46, 19.6%; J Jefferson, 6 from 33, 18.2%; J Fitzgerald, 17 from 105, 16.2%; J Mackie, 4 from 26, 15.4%; P Beaumont, 7 from 54, 13.0%.

JOCKEYS: Mr N Wilson, 3 winners from 9 rides, 33.3%; P Niven, 45 from 181, 24.9%; L Wyer, 40 from 168, 23.8%; E Callaghan, 5 from 21, 23.8%; R Guest, 15 from 78, 19.2%; A Dobbin, 18 from 111, 16.2%.

3.20 LAMBSON HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,732: 2m 4f 110yd) (11)

1 -100 EXECUTIVE DESIGN 20 (G,S) Mrs M Reveley 5-12-0 P Niven 92
2 -105 FIRED EARTH 31 (D,F,S) J Fanshawe 9-11-11 .. A Dobbin 90
3 F314 CELESTIAL CHOIR 22 (D,G) J Eyre 7-11-4 .. B Storey 94
4 5453 FOURTH IN LINE 6 (G,S) M Wilkinson 9-11-4 W Marston 98
5 5321 DOMAPPEL 17 (D,G) Mrs J Cecil 5-11-2 .. T Kent [illegible]
6 *F322 THURSDAY NIGHT 17 (D,S) J Fitzgerald 6-10-9 .. A Thornton* 95
7 43-3 CAMPAIGN 59 (D,F) M Hammond 6-10-8 .. R Garritty 92
8 5124 SHARE OPTIONS 33 (CD,F,G) T Easterby 6-10-3 L Wyer 91
9 2134 SUAS LEAT 68 (C,F,G) J Jefferson 7-10-0 .. M Newton (7) 92
10 441- ALCIAN BLUE 434 (F) M Hammond 6-10-0 Mr C Bonner (3) 97
11 0/6 KINDA GROOVY 17 (B,D,F,G) I Park 8-10-0 .. N Smith –

4-1 Celestial Choir, 9-2 Domappel, 5-1 Campaign, 6-1 Thursday Night, 7-1 Executive Design, 8-1 Share Options, 10-1 Fired Earth, 12-1 others.

3.50 SEBEL HOUSE GROUP NOVICES NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (£4,711: 3m 5f) (4)

1 2111 FATHER SKY 7 (B,F,G) O Sherwood 6-12-0 (4ex) J A McCarthy [illegible]
2 U112 IVY HOUSE 45 (G,S) J J O'Neill 9-10-10 .. R McGrath (5) 96
3 *F41P MISTER TRICK 15 (B,G) L Lungo 7-10-0 .. R Supple* 80
4 -U21 THE WHOLE HOG 14 (F) K Bailey 8-10-0 .. A Thornton 75

11-10 Father Sky, 5-4 Ivy House, 10-1 The Whole Hog, 12-1 Mister Trick.

4.20 HOWARD BROWN MEMORIAL NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,155: 3m 1f) (5)

1 *-221 DENIM BLUE 25 (G,S) Miss P Robson 8-11-12* Miss P Robson (5) [illegible]
2 5-24 R N COMMANDER 25 (G) J Cornwall 11-11-12 J R Cornwall (7) –
3 *P-0P SOVEREIGNS MATCH 24P I Nichol 9-11-12 .. N Wilson (5)* –
4 P650 SYRUS P TURNTABLE 10P Miss P Fitton 11-11-12 J Saville (7) 65
5 0462 TOM LOG 17P (F,S) W Burnell 10-11-12 .. W Burnell (7) 68

6-15 Denim Blue, 9-2 Tom Log, 5-1 R N Commander, 12-1 Sovereigns Match, 14-1 Syrus P Turntable.

4.50 HENDERSON INSURANCE BROKERS LTD HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,880: 2m) (9)

1 2423 BURES 148 (D,F,G) Mrs J Brown 6-11-10 .. B Grattan (5) 90
2 *523F DESERT FIGHTER 12F (CD,F) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-10 P Niven* [illegible]
3 1205 ANABRANCH 54 (D,G) J Jefferson 6-11-9 E Callaghan (3) 92
4 0210 SAMAND 24 (D,F,G) Miss L Siddall 5-11-6 .. O Pears 91
5 42PP RALITSA 54 (G) M Hammond 5-11-4 .. R Garritty 91
6 F020 HOLDERS HILL 22 (D,G) M Meagher 5-11-2 .. R Guest 98
7 1613 RUSSIAN RASCAL 53 (D,BF,G) T Easterby 4-10-10 L Wyer 97
8 6114 LAST TRY 27 (D,F,G) B Rothwell 6-10-9 .. A S Smith 90
9 0000 FOX SPARROW 26 (B,D,S) N Tinkler 7-10-9 .. A Dobbin 96

4-1 Desert Fighter, 5-1 Russian Rascal, Holders Hill, 6-1 Samand, Last Try, 7-1 *Anabranch, 8-1 others.*

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Ov
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-12
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0	-14
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-3	+30
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0	0
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0	+1
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+24
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+19
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	-1
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+4
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	0	-1
10502	S Kerr	Celtic	3.00	0	+28
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+10
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0	-27
10603	F Grodas	Chelsea	3.00	0	0
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	-31
10702	J Filan	Coventry City	0.50	0	0
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0	-7
10802	R Hoult	Derby County	1.00	0	-34
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0	+4
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0	-10
10903	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.50	0	0
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	0	-47
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	0	-24
11103	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0	+1
11201	G Rousset	Hearts	2.00	0	-7
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	0	-27
11401	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	-44
11501	M Beeney	Leeds United	1.50	0	+5
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	0
11503	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	0	+30
11601	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	0	-16
11603	K Keller	Leicester City	1.00	0	-14
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	-1	+25
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	0	+12
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0	+5
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-20
11902	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-23
11903	B Roberts	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+3
11904	M Schwarzer	Middlesbrough	2.00	-1	-4
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	0	-31
12101	S Hislop	Newcastle United	4.00	0	-14
12102	P Srnicek	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-1	-44
12202	A Fettis	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	-2
12301	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	-53
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0	+29
12402	A Dibble	Rangers	3.50	0	0
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+4
12502	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0	-28
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0	+2
12604	M Taylor	Southampton	1.00	0	-2
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	0	-41
11803	A Coton	Sunderland	1.00	0	+9
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0	-13
12802	E Baardsen	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
12901	L Miklosko	West Ham United	2.00	0	-26
12902	S Mautone	West Ham United	0.50	0	+5
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	0	+5
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0	-1

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Ov
20101	S McKimmie	Aberdeen	2.00	0	+8
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	-1	+32
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	-1	+41
20203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.00	0	+3
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+36
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+56
20303	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	0
20304	P King	Aston Villa	0.25	0	0
20305	F Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+43
20401	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+24
20402	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+27
20403	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+22
20404	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+2
20501	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	0	+37
20502	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.00	0	+20
20601	D Petrescu	Chelsea	3.00	0	+22
20602	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.00	0	+7
20604	S Minto	Chelsea	1.00	0	-2
20701	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	-8
20703	B Borrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	-9
20704	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0	+6
20801	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	0	+8
20802	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0	+4
20901	M Malpas	Dundee United	1.00	0	+52
20902	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	0	+41
20903	N Duffy	Dundee United	0.50	0	+7
21001	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	0	-5
21002	A Tod	Dunfermline	0.25	0	-7
21101	M Hottiger	Everton	2.50	0	-4
21102	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.00	0	+14
20603	T Phelan	Everton	2.00	0	0
21103	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	0	+15
21201	G Locke	Hearts	2.00	0	+22
21202	N Pointon	Hearts	1.00	0	+21
21301	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	0	+3
21302	A Dow	Hibernian	1.00	0	+12
21402	G MacPherson	Kilmarnock	0.50	0	-8
21501	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	0	+39
21502	A Dorigo	Leeds United	2.50	0	+10
21504	G Halle	Leeds United	1.00	0	+29
21601	M Whitlow	Leicester City	0.50	0	+6
21602	S Grayson	Leicester City	0.50	0	+11
21604	F Rolling	Leicester City	0.25	0	0
21701	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0	0
21702	S Harkness	Liverpool	1.50	0	0
21703	S I Bjornebye	Liverpool	0.50	0	+48
21801	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00	0	+41
21802	G Neville	Manchester United	3.00	0	+34
21803	P Neville	Manchester United	3.00	0	+4
21901	N Cox	Middlesbrough	2.50	0	-11
21903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-1
21904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+7
21905	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.25	0	+9
21906	V Kinder	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+1
22002	S McMillan	Motherwell	0.50	0	+2
22101	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+5
22102	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+21
22103	R Elliott	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+10
22104	J Beresford	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+7
22201	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.00	-1	+10
22202	D Lyttle	Nottingham Forest	2.00	-1	+7
22203	A I Haaland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	+2	+22
22204	N Jerkan	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	-4
22301	P Bonar	Raith Rovers	0.75	0	-8
22302	D Kirkwood	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	-7
22401	D Robertson	Rangers	2.50	0	+34
22402	J Brown	Rangers	2.00	0	0
22501	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+29
22502	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+30
22503	S Nicol	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+11
22504	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+11
22505	L Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	+3
22601	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	0	-4
22602	F Benali	Southampton	0.75	0	-4
22603	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75	0	+4
22701	D Kubicki	Sunderland	0.50	0	+6
22702	M Scott	Sunderland	0.50	0	+4
22703	G Hall	Sunderland	0.25	0	+3
22704	J Eriksson	Sunderland	1.50	0	-1
22801	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	+1
22802	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	+12
22803	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	+10
22804	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
22805	S Carr	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	-3
22901	J Dicks	West Ham United	4.00	0	+23
22902	T Breacker	West Ham United	1.00	0	+3
22903	K Rowland	West Ham United	1.00	0	-2
22904	M Bowen	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+9
23002	A Kimble	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+14
23003	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+27
23004	D Jupp	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+2
23006	C Perry	Wimbledon	0.25	0	+39

MARC ASPLAND

Collymore's goal against Arsenal kept Liverpool in the title race and earned him two points during a lean week

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Ov
30101	B Irvine	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-6
30102	C Woodthorpe	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-1
30103	A Kombouare	Aberdeen	2.50	0	+3
30201	A Adams	Arsenal	4.00	-1	+36
30202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	+33
30203	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00	-1	+42
30205	S Marshall	Arsenal	1.00	-1	+14
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+34
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+63
30304	C Tiler	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+19
30305	R Scimeca	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+28
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+30
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-3
30404	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+2
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	0	+29
30502	M MacKay	Celtic	1.50	0	+37
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	0	+19
30504	B O'Neil	Celtic	3.00	-1	+1
30505	E Annoni	Celtic	3.00	0	+4
30601	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	0	+1
30602	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.50	0	+29
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	-4
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0	+3
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	0	+1
30606	E Johnsen	Chelsea	1.50	0	+11
30701	L Daish	Coventry City	2.00	0	+5
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	+5
30704	G Breen	Coventry City	1.50	0	-1
30705	A Evtushok	Coventry City	1.50	0	+1
30801	I Stimac	Derby County	2.50	0	-10
30802	D Wassall	Derby County	1.00	0	0
30303	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	0	-1
30803	J Laursen	Derby County	1.00	0	+11
30804	M Carbon	Derby County	0.50	0	-5
30901	S Pressley	Dundee United	1.00	0	+55
31001	M Millar	Dunfermline	0.75	0	-2
31002	I Den Bieman	Dunfermline	0.75	0	-14
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	0	+15
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	0	+14
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00	0	+10
31201	D McPherson	Hearts	1.00	0	+27
31202	P Ritchie	Hearts	1.00	0	+32
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0	+4
30902	B Welsh	Hibernian	0.75	0	+9
31302	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	0	-3
32302	S Dennis	Hibernian	1.00	0	-19
31401	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	+3
31402	R Montgomerie	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	+4
31501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	0	+31
31502	R Jobson	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2
31503	L Radebe	Leeds United	1.00	0	+23
31504	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0	0
31505	R Molenaar	Leeds United	2.00	0	+24
31601	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.00	0	+12
31602	J Watts	Leicester City	1.00	0	+10
31603	P Kaamark	Leicester City	0.50	0	+6
31604	S Prior	Leicester City	1.00	0	+3
31605	M Elliott	Leicester City	1.50	0	+9
31701	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0	+24
31703	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	0	+32
31704	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.00	0	+14
31705	D Matteo	Liverpool	1.00	0	+28
31706	B T Kvarme	Liverpool	2.00	0	+6
31801	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50	0	+13
31802	D May	Manchester United	3.00	0	+34
31803	R Johnsen	Manchester United	2.50	0	+24
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+3
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-12
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-10
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-4
31905	G Festa	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+4
32001	B Martin	Motherwell	1.50	0	-8
32002	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	0	+10
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.50	0	+18
32102	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+7
32103	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+17
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+7
32202	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	+12
32203	S Blatherwick	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-5
32303	D Craig	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	-6
32304	G Mitchell	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	-1
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	0	+57
32402	A McLaren	Rangers	3.00	0	+15
32403	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	+31
32404	G Petric	Rangers	2.50	0	+7
32501	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+15
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+33
32503	B Linighan	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0	0
32601	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	0	-18
32602	A Neilson	Southampton	1.00	0	+5
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	0	-2
32604	C Lundekvam	Southampton	0.50	0	-4
32605	U van Gobbel	Southampton	1.50	0	-19
32701	A Melville	Sunderland	1.00	0	+12
32702	K Ball	Sunderland	1.00	0	+7
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	0.50	0	+11
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+17
31702	J Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0	+6
32802	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+14
32803	G Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0
32806	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	-6
32807	R Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	0	-1
32901	S Bilic	West Ham United	2.50	0	+11
32902	M Rieper	West Ham United	2.50	0	+6
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	0	-2
32904	R Hall	West Ham United	1.50	0	0
32905	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50	0	+4
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0
33003	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
33004	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+18
33005	B McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+14
33006	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Ov
40101	D Windass	Aberdeen	3.00	0	+35
40102	S Glass	Aberdeen	3.00	0	+19
40103	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.50	0	+7
40104	I Kiriakov	Aberdeen	2.50	0	+28
40105	T Tzvetanov	Aberdeen	0.50	0	+21
40201	D Platt	Arsenal	4.50	+1	+31
40202	P Merson	Arsenal	4.00	0	+55
40203	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.00	0	+25
40204	G Helder	Arsenal	1.50	0	0
40205	I Selley	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
40208	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.00	+1	+36
40209	R Garde	Arsenal	2.00	0	+5
40210	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00	+1	+10
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	4.00	0	+29
40302	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+46
40303	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+35
40304	G Farrelly	Aston Villa	1.00	0	0
40306	S Curcic	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+21
40401	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+39
40402	L Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+27
40403	G Flitcroft	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+23
40404	W McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+15
40405	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+43
40406	P Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+4
40407	G Donis	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+16
40408	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+5
40409	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0
40501	P McStay	Celtic	3.00	0	+22
40502	A Thom	Celtic	2.50	0	+27
40503	S Donnelly	Celtic	2.50	0	+29
40504	P Grant	Celtic	1.50	0	+26
40505	P Di Canio	Celtic	3.00	0	+52
40506	D Hannah	Celtic	1.50	0	+10
40507	P O'Donnell	Celtic	2.50	0	+6
40601	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50	0	+9
40602	D Wise	Chelsea	3.00	0	+38
40604	C Burley	Chelsea	2.00	0	+30
40605	E Newton	Chelsea	2.00	0	+17
40607	D Rocastle	Chelsea	0.50	0	0
40608	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	3.00	0	+52
40609	J Morris	Chelsea	2.00	0	0
40610	P Hughes	Chelsea	2.00	0	+1
40701	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	0	+32
41501	G McAllister	Coventry City	5.50	0	+54
40702	E Jess	Coventry City	2.00	0	+31
40703	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	0	+34
40704	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	0	+31
40705	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0	+28
40706	M Isaias	Coventry City	0.50	0	0
40707	W Boland	Coventry City	0.25	0	0
40708	M O'Neill	Coventry City	1.50	0	+1
40801	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.00	0	+47
40802	P Simpson	Derby County	1.50	0	+5
40803	R van der Laan	Derby County	1.50	0	+20
40804	D Powell	Derby County	1.00	0	+25
40805	S Flynn	Derby County	0.75	0	+12
40807	G Rowett	Derby County	0.50	0	+31
40809	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50	0	+33
40901	G McSwegan	Dundee United	2.00	0	+27
40902	R Winters	Dundee United	1.50	0	+62
40903	G Johnson	Dundee United	1.00	0	0
42003	J Dolan	Dundee United	1.00	0	+26
42303	J McInally	Dundee United	0.75	0	+19
40904	D Bowman	Dundee United	0.75	0	+24
40905	A Benneker	Dundee United	0.50	0	+2
41001	H French	Dunfermline	1.00	0	+41
41002	C Robertson	Dunfermline	1.00	0	+32
41003	A Smith	Dunfermline	0.75	0	+46
41004	D Fleming	Dunfermline	0.50	0	+27
41102	G Speed	Everton	4.00	0	+58
41104	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0	+29
41106	A Grant	Everton	0.50	0	+11
41108	C Thomsen	Everton	2.00	0	+9
41202	A McManus	Hearts	1.50	0	+7
41203	S Fulton	Hearts	1.00	0	+31
41302	P McGinlay	Hibernian	1.50	0	+36
41303	G Love	Hibernian	0.75	0	+9
41305	I Cameron	Hibernian	0.75	0	+10
41401	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	+25
41402	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	+35
41403	M Skilling	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	0
41404	J Lauchlan	Kilmarnock	0.50	0	+11
41502	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00	0	+52
41503	A Gray	Leeds United	2.50	0	+1
41504	C Palmer	Leeds United	2.00	0	+27
41505	R Wallace	Leeds United	1.50	0	+32
41805	L Sharpe	Leeds United	3.50	0	+43
41506	I Harte	Leeds United	1.00	0	+19
41507	M Ford	Leeds United	0.50	0	+19
41508	A Couzens	Leeds United	0.50	0	+8
41509	M Tinkler	Leeds United	0.50	0	+2
41510	M Jackson	Leeds United	1.00	0	+8
41601	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	0	+30
41602	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00	0	+32
41603	S Taylor	Leicester City	2.00	0	+20
41604	J Lawrence	Leicester City	0.25	0	+2
40606	M Izzet	Leicester City	1.00	0	+40
41701	S McManaman	Liverpool	7.00	+1	+50
41702	J McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	+2	+43
41703	J Redknapp	Liverpool	4.00	+1	+21
41704	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	+1	+49
41705	M Thomas	Liverpool	2.50	0	+33
41706	M Kennedy	Liverpool	1.00	0	0
41707	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00	0	+27
41801	R Giggs	Manchester United	7.00	0	+43
41802	R Keane	Manchester United	4.50	0	+17
41803	D Beckham	Manchester United	4.00	0	+55
41804	N Butt	Manchester United	3.50	0	+31
41806	B McClair	Manchester United	1.50	0	+9
41807	T Cooke	Manchester United	1.00	0	0
41808	B Thornley	Manchester United	1.00	0	+1
41809	S Davies	Manchester United	0.50	0	0
41810	J Cruyff	Manchester United	2.50	0	+17
41811	K Poborsky	Manchester United	4.00	0	+27
41901	Emerson	Middlesbrough	3.50	+1	+28
41902	Juninho	Middlesbrough	3.50	0	+56
41903	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	2.00	+1	+25
41905	A Moore	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+5
41906	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+30
41908	C Liddle	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	+6
41909	B Robson	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	+1
41910	P Stamp	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	+20
42001	C McCart	Motherwell	2.00	0	+14
42002	J Philliben	Motherwell	1.00	0	+14
42004	J Hendry	Motherwell	0.75	0	+3
42005	S Valikari	Motherwell	3.00	0	+5
42101	D Ginola	Newcastle United	5.50	0	+23
42102	R Lee	Newcastle United	5.50	0	+44
42103	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	4.50	0	+27
42104	D Batty	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+24
42105	L Clark	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+20
42201	I Woan	Nottingham Forest	4.50	0	+34
42202	S Stone	Nottingham Forest	4.00	0	+2
42203	S Gemmill	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+1	+14
42204	C Bart-Williams	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+20
42205	D Phillips	Nottingham Forest	1.00	+1	+26
42301	T Rougier	Raith Rovers	2.00	0	+31
42302	D Lennon	Raith Rovers	1.00	0	+43
41304	A Millen	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	+23
42304	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	+26
42401	P Gascoigne	Rangers	7.00	0	+58
42402	B Laudrup	Rangers	5.00	0	+64
42403	S McCall	Rangers	2.00	0	+9
42404	T Steven	Rangers	1.50	0	+8
42405	J Albertz	Rangers	4.00	0	+55
42501	R Blinker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+16
42502	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+45
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+29
42506	M Williams	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
42507	R Jones	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
42508	S Oakes	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+9
42509	W Collins	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0	+12
42510	O Trustfull	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+13
42511	B Carbone	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	0	+31
42601	J Magilton	Southampton	2.50	0	+37
42604	B Venison	Southampton	1.00	0	0
42606	D Hughes	Southampton	0.50	0	+1
42906	R Slater	Southampton	1.00	0	+14
42607	M Oakley	Southampton	0.50	0	+26
42608	P Tisdale	Southampton	0.50	0	0
42609	M Robinson	Southampton	0.25	0	+6
42611	E Berkovic	Southampton	1.00	0	+26
42701	M Gray	Sunderland	2.50	0	+37
42702	S Agnew	Sunderland	1.50	0	+16
42703	A Rae	Sunderland	1.50	0	+14
42704	P Bracewell	Sunderland	0.75	0	+39
42705	M Smith	Sunderland	1.00	0	+9
42706	C Waddle	Sunderland	1.50	0	0
42801	D Anderton	Tottenham Hotspur	5.50	0	[illegible]
42802	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	[illegible]	+23
42803	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	+35
42804	J Dozzell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	+8
42805	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+37
42806	R Rosenthal	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+6
42809	A Nielsen	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+37
42902	I Bishop	West Ham United	2.00	0	+30
42903	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	0	+34
42904	D Williamson	West Ham United	1.50	0	+17
42905	J Moncur	West Ham United	1.50	0	+20
42907	S Lazaridis	West Ham United	0.25	0	+14
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.00	0	+64
43002	O Leonhardsen	Wimbledon	2.50	0	+43
43003	M Gayle	Wimbledon	2.00	0	+61
43004	V Jones	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+33
43005	N Ardley	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+45
43006	S Castledine	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+1
43007	P Fear	Wimbledon	0.25	0	+6

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Ov
50101	S Booth	Aberdeen	4.50	0	+12
50102	D Shearer	Aberdeen	3.00	0	+6
50103	W Dodds	Aberdeen	5.00	0	+33
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.00	+3	+60
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	7.00	0	+39
50205	C Kiwomya	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
50206	N Anelka	Arsenal	3.00	0	0
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	7.50	0	+68
50302	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	5.00	0	+34
50303	T Johnson	Aston Villa	4.00	0	+16
50304	J Joachim	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+9
50402	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+51
50404	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+40
50405	G Fenton	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+3
50406	N Gudmundsson	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	0
50407	P Pedersen	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+8
50502	J Cadete	Celtic	6.00	0	+75
50601	G Vialli	Chelsea	5.00	0	+40
50602	M Hughes	Chelsea	4.00	0	+45
50605	M Stein	Chelsea	0.50	0	0
50606	G Zola	Chelsea	5.00	0	+45
50701	N Whelan	Coventry City	6.00	0	+33
50702	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00	0	+33
50703	P Ndlovu	Coventry City	3.00	0	+4
52105	D Huckerby	Coventry City	0.50	0	+34
50801	D Sturridge	Derby County	3.00	0	+39
50802	M Gabbiadini	Derby County	2.00	0	+7
50803	A Ward	Derby County	2.00	0	+30
50804	R Willems	Derby County	1.00	0	+18
50903	K Olafsson	Dundee United	3.00	0	+16
51001	A Moore	Dunfermline	2.00	0	+12
51002	S Petrie	Dunfermline	2.00	0	+26
51101	D Ferguson	Everton	6.00	0	+39
51901	N Barmby	Everton	4.00	0	+41
51102	G Stuart	Everton	3.00	0	+35
51104	P Rideout	Everton	2.00	0	+4
51105	M Branch	Everton	1.50	0	+9
51201	J Robertson	Hearts	3.50	0	+47
51202	C Cameron	Hearts	3.50	0	+47
51203	D Beckford	Hearts	0.50	0	+4
51301	K Wright	Hibernian	3.00	0	+23
51302	D Jackson	Hibernian	3.00	0	+47
51401	P Wright	Kilmarnock	3.00	0	+56
51501	A Yeboah	Leeds United	7.00	0	+4
51502	I Rush	Leeds United	3.50	0	+31
51504	B Deane	Leeds United	2.00	0	+32
51601	S Claridge	Leicester City	2.50	0	+51
51602	E Heskey	Leicester City	2.00	0	+38
51603	M Robins	Leicester City	0.75	0	+7
51604	I Marshall	Leicester City	0.75	0	+40
51605	S Guppy	Leicester City	2.00	0	+4
51701	R Fowler	Liverpool	9.00	0	+63
51702	S Collymore	Liverpool	8.00	+2	+47
51801	E Cantona	Manchester United	8.50	0	+42
51802	P Scholes	Manchester United	5.00	0	+17
51803	A Cole	Manchester United	4.50	0	+15
51804	O G Solskjaer	Manchester United	3.00	0	+46
51905	F Ravanelli	Middlesbrough	5.00	0	+71
51906	M Beck	Middlesbrough	2.50	+3	+31
52001	T Coyne	Motherwell	2.00	0	+44
50902	O Coyle	Motherwell	2.00	0	+28
52002	D Arnott	Motherwell	1.50	0	+17
50401	A Shearer	Newcastle United	10.0	0	+70
52101	L Ferdinand	Newcastle United	8.50	0	+50
52102	F Asprilla	Newcastle United	6.50	0	+15
52103	P Beardsley	Newcastle United	5.00	0	+32
50501	P van Hooijdonk	Nottingham Forest	7.00	+1	+46
52201	D Saunders	Nottingham Forest	3.50	+1	+42
52202	B Roy	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+12
52203	P McGregor	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0
52204	K Campbell	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	+33
52205	J Lee	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	+7
52206	S Howe	Nottingham Forest	0.50	0	0
52207	A Silenzi	Nottingham Forest	0.50	0	+1
52208	I Moore	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	0
52301	P Duffield	Raith Rovers	2.00	0	+29
52401	G Durie	Rangers	6.00	0	+13
52402	E Andersen	Rangers	5.00	0	+35
52403	A McCoist	Rangers	5.00	0	+38
52404	P van Vossen	Rangers	6.00	0	0
52405	S Rozental	Rangers	4.00	0	+3
52501	D Hirst	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	0	+25
52502	A Booth	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+53
52504	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+33
52505	O Donaldson	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
52506	R Humphreys	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+19
52601	M Le Tissier	Southampton	7.00	0	+42
52605	E Ostenstad	Southampton	2.00	0	+45
52606	M Evans	Southampton	0.75	0	+3
52701	P Stewart	Sunderland	1.00	0	+9
52702	C Russell	Sunderland	1.00	0	+20
52703	D Kelly	Sunderland	1.00	0	+20
52704	L Howey	Sunderland	0.50	0	+3
52705	M Bridges	Sunderland	0.50	0	+16
52708	N Quinn	Sunderland	3.00	0	+7
52801	E Sheringham	Tottenham Hotspur	8.00	0	+31
52802	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	7.00	0	+19
52803	R Allen	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	+5
52804	S Iversen	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0	+32
50203	J Hartson	West Ham United	3.50	0	+20
52903	I Dowie	West Ham United	2.00	0	+15
52104	P Kitson	West Ham United	1.50	0	+14
53001	D Holdsworth	Wimbledon	3.00	0	+17
53002	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	3.00	0	+50
53003	J Goodman	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+5
53004	J Euell	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
53005	A Clarke	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+7
53006	M Harford	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+5

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Ov
60101	R Aitken	Aberdeen	2.50	0	+26
60202	A Wenger	Arsenal	3.50	-1	+37
60301	B Little	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+44
60402	A Parkes	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+22
60501	T Burns	Celtic	4.00	0	+66
60601	R Gullit	Chelsea	2.50	0	+54
60702	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.00	0	+14
60801	J Smith	Derby County	0.75	0	+31
62302	T McLean	Dundee United	0.75	0	+61
61001	W Paton	Dunfermline	0.50	0	+27
61101	J Royle	Everton	3.00	0	+25
61201	J Jefferies	Hearts	2.00	0	+40
61302	J Duffy	Hibernian	1.00	0	+9
61402	W Williamson	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	+10
61502	G Graham	Leeds United	2.00	0	+29
61601	M O'Neill	Leicester City	0.50	0	+33
61701	R Evans	Liverpool	4.50	+3	+57
61801	A Ferguson	Manchester United	5.00	0	+62
61901	B Robson	Middlesbrough	2.00	+1	+33
62001	A McLeish	Motherwell	1.50	0	+18
62102	K Dalglish	Newcastle United	4.50	0	+10
62202	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	2.00	+1	+3
62303	I Munro	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	+10
62401	W Smith	Rangers	5.00	0	+69
62501	D Pleat	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+51
62601	G Souness	Southampton	0.50	0	+10
62701	P Reid	Sunderland	0.50	0	+18
62801	G Francis	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	0	+24
62901	H Redknapp	West Ham United	2.00	0	+19
63001	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	1.00	0	+52

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Shortage of matches opens way for novice selector

INTERNATIONAL matches have meant that Interactive Team Football has been curtailed this week to just two games. The astute selectors in ITF have, therefore, been busy drafting in players from Arsenal, Liverpool, Middlesbrough and Nottingham Forest, in the hope of picking up valuable points.

The weekly winner has a modest score — ten — but that is enough to gain him the £250 prize. Mr A. Ward, from Rhyl, in Clwyd, had seven players from those four clubs, and that proved to be sufficient for a man who only entered the game this week.

The winner of the £1,000 monthly prize, is Mr Vikram Wadhwa, from London, with his team The Winners VW. Mr Wadhwa, who scored 123 points during March, is in the leading 300 selectors overall, with an outside chance of winning the £50,000 prize.

In the overall game, Mr D. Edmondson remains the leading selector, by five points.

You can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes, using the ITF transfer system which allows you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

☐ ***All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.***

The goal scored by Haaland, left, against Middlesbrough was valuable to many ITF selectors

ENTER A NEW TEAM TODAY

THERE ARE BIG PRIZES TO BE WON EVERY WEEK AND EVERY MONTH

The ITF Manager of the Week and the Manager of the Month are up for grabs from now until the end of the season. Enter a team today for your chance to be a winner in 1997. The Manager of the Week or Month can be won by any team no matter where it is in the league, the prize for the Manager of the Week or Month simply goes to the person whose team scores the highest points in any one week or month.

The prize for the Manager of the Week is £250 cash, plus a £250 Sports Gift Voucher for an amateur football team in your community — as nominated by you. The Manager of the Month will receive £1,000 cash.

Enter today by following the instructions below.

Enter ITF by phone on 0891 405 011

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom, call 44 990 100 320

1. You must use a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone).
2. Choose 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
3. Do not spend more than £35 million.
4. Do not choose more than two individuals (2 players or 1 player and 1 manager) from any one football club.
5. Once you have chosen your team, call the entry line, above, and follow these step-by-step instructions.
   a) You must tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager.
   b) You must speak the name of your team (no more than 16 characters) your name, address, with postcode, and daytime telephone number.
   c) Finally, you will be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number and your chosen team as no postal notification will be sent.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH sky sports

See Sky Text, page 118

NB. *Any new team will only score points on future games.*

0891 calls cost 50p per minute. Your call will cost approximately double if made from a pay phone. In the event of there being more than one Manager of the Week or Month, the winner will be chosen at random. All ITF rules apply, a copy of which will be made available on request.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

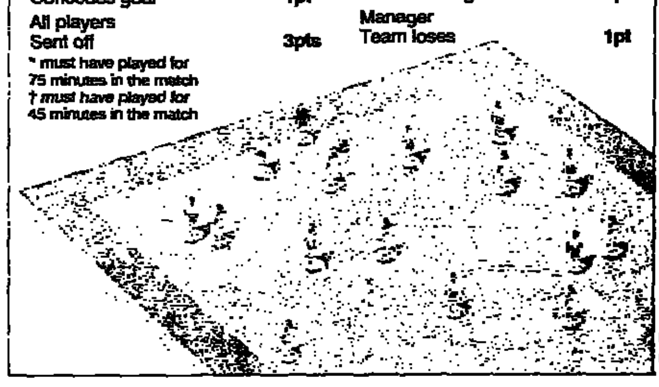
POINTS SCORED

Goalkeeper		Striker	
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scores goal	2pts
Scores goal	3pts	All players	
Saves penalty	1pt	Appearance†	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Scores hat-trick	6pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	
Scores goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player		Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Scores goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED

Goalkeeper		Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players		Manager	
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match



HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 866 968

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 990 200 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selectors PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £35 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

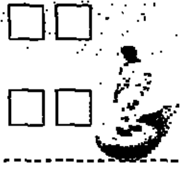
The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 50p per minute. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Player code
Player out .... ☐☐☐☐☐
Club ....
Player in .... ☐☐☐☐☐
Club ....



THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

IN

10804	Mart Poom	Derby County	£1.00m
11703	Jorgen Nielsen	Liverpool	£1.00m
42107	Des Hamilton	Newcastle United	£1.50m
42512	David Billington	Sheffield Wed	£0.50m
42908	Steve Lomas	West Ham United	£2.00m
51506	Pierre Laurent	Leeds United	£2.00m
51507	Derek Lilley	Leeds United	£0.75m
52709	Alan Johnston	Sunderland	£2.00m
12902	Steve Mautone	West Ham United	£0.50m
20203	Steve Morrow	Arsenal	£1.00m
20304	Phil King	Aston Villa	£0.25m
30304	Carl Tiler	Aston Villa	£1.00m
41509	Mark Tinkler	Leeds United	£0.50m
61101	Joe Royle	Everton	£3.00m

MOVED

50303	*Tommy Johnson (from Aston Villa)*	Celtic	£4.00m

OUT

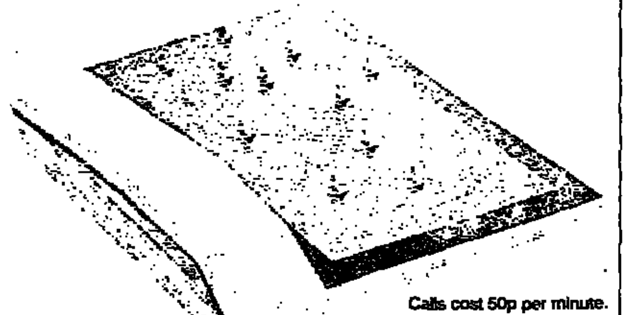
11902	Alan Miller	Middlesbrough	£1.50m

LOANED PLAYERS

N Gudmundsson (Blackburn to Ipswich, three weeks); B O'Neil (Celtic to Nottingham Forest, three weeks), J Lee (Nottingham Forest to Grimsby, end of season); S Blatherwick (Nottingham Forest to Reading, end of season) D Wassall (Derby to Birmingham, end of season); S Flynn (Derby to Stoke, end of season); M Taylor (Derby to Wycombe, end of season), M Williams (Sheffield Wednesday to Peterborough, end of season)
Loan periods subject to fluctuation

THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Calls cost 50p per minute.

Call the ITF checkline on
0891 884 643
Outside UK: 44 990 100 343

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Edmo Utd	(D Edmondson)	694
2=	Jones Boys Three	(M Jones)	689
2=	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	689
4=	Turner's Earners 5	(P Turner)	688
4=	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	688
6	Brain's Team	(B Howes)	674
7	AB 4	(A Boyland)	673
8	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	672
9=	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	671
9=	Nobby	(J Brown)	671
11	Nobby 32	(J Brown)	669
12	Daggers	(V Cox)	667
13	Pin Ups Two	(P Tusler)	662
14	Turner's Earners 3	(P Turner)	661
15	Nonchalont AFC 3	(R J Ward)	659
16	Dour Rangers 3	(I Clayton)	657
17=	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	656
17=	Nobby 29	(J Brown)	656
19=	Bob's Boys 2	(R Calder)	655
19=	John Hunt Taunton G	(J Hunt)	655
21=	Jabberwocky	(P A Amoss)	654
21=	Partick Bilbao 3	(J Hamilton)	654
23=	12 Angry Men	(D Cook)	653
23=	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	653
25	Icarus	(B Wells)	651
26=	Nobby 22	(J Brown)	645
26=	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	645
28=	Beeston Celtic	(B McGivern)	643
28=	Turner's Earners 1	(P Turner)	643
30	Hunter's Mob	(C Hunter)	642
31	Blythe Spartans	(T Blythe)	640
32	Uni Boys Utd 1	(B Gardiner)	639
33=	Jones Boys Eight	(M Jones)	638
33=	Where's Ray Gone?	(P Fromm)	638
35=	Noah's Ark	(G P Dolan)	637
35=	Nobby 23	(J Brown)	637
37=	Bladerunners	(P Walters)	636
37=	Turner's Earners 6	(P Turner)	636
39	BCFC 1998	(J Bithell)	635
40	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	633
41	Bob's Boys 4	(R Calder)	632
42	Jones Boys Sky	(M Jones)	631
43=	Scholes For Goals	(K Booth)	630
43=	Turner's Earners 4	(P Turner)	630
43=	A	(M Corless)	630
46=	Elsinore United	(P Leader)	629
46=	JJB Sports	(A Bates)	629
48=	Midfield Magic	(J Pregon)	627
48=	Nobby 12	(J Brown)	627
50=	Thorn Foolery FC	(M Horan)	626
50=	Tur	(P Turner)	626
50=	John Hunt Taunton C	(J Hunt)	626
53=	Inter The Stand	(M Ward)	625
53=	Teddy Three	(B Bear)	625
53=	Abc	(M Baber)	625
53=	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	624
57=	Storm	(P Mills)	624
57=	Nobby 25	(J Brown)	622
59	Nobby 20	(J Brown)	621
60=	Gastalt	(R Rowe)	621
60=	Nobby 14	(J Brown)	620
62=	Bad Time Boys	(R Crook)	620
62=	Club18-30 Tossa	(A Robson)	620
62=	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	618
65=	Jones Boys One	(M Jones)	618
65=	Inter The Pub	(M Ward)	618
65=	Bill Watchers	(J Murray)	618
65=	Concrete Banana	(S Mingle)	618
65=	Abc	(M Baber)	618
65=	Nobby 5	(J Brown)	618
71	Caroline B	(A Luckhurst)	617
72=	Jan 2	(J Clayton)	616
72=	Krystonia 2	(S Roberts)	616
72=	Raj Is Back To Kill 5	(R Gohil)	616
75=	Set Against Cys	(S Shipley)	615
75=	Bonky Boys	(R Crook)	615
75=	Team C	(A Lone)	615
75=	Garforth Seahawks	(I Doughty)	615
79=	Joking	(P Fallen)	614
79=	Always Portugal 1	(V Guimaraes)	614
81=	Tulip's Tops	(D Tulip)	613
81=	Misfits	(R Lockyer)	613
81=	Nobby J	(J Brown)	613
84=	You're Not Very Well	(R Laskowski)	611
84=	Neil Madrid	(N Ratcliffe)	611
86=	Mean Machine	(P Ford)	609
86=	1970 Jr FC	(J Ross)	609
86=	Watemish FC	(M Kirkwood)	609
89	Irwin's Best	(L Sampson)	608
90=	Bob's Boys 3	(R Calder)	607
90=	A2	(K Farhall)	607
92=	Enid Four	(J Feather)	606
92=	Nobby 34	(J Brown)	606
94=	Inter The Wallet	(M Ward)	605
94=	Orvieto Classico	(J Bradshaw)	605
96=	Murray's Mates	(D Anderson)	604
96=	Murray's Magicians	(M MacMillan)	604
98=	DJS 2	(D Senton)	603
98=	Caroline D	(A Luckhurst)	603
98=	Inter The Unknown	(P Barnett)	603
101=	Born Losers	(P Farkins)	602
101=	Brainbows United	(G Weiss)	602
101=	Bob's Boys 5	(R Calder)	602
101=	AJK	(K Hughes)	602
105=	Bubwith Utd 5	(M Larcombe)	601
105=	Bob's Boys 1	(R Calder)	601
107=	Glen Duffers	(S Wilson)	600
107=	Ebbey's 1st XI	(S Baldnck)	600
107=	Def Con 3	(M Peck)	600
110	Langton Longballs	(M Ward)	599
111=	PJB Rovers	(P J Butler)	598
111=	Alice	(I Pigeon)	598
113=	Simba's Dream	(C A Kitchen)	597
113=	NST Monkstone	(J Staszkiewicz)	597
113=	PJ Thistle	(R Newbould)	597
113=	Infinity George	(M Robson)	597
113=	The Dummies 1	(D Shiels)	597
118=	Goaldiggers	(D Curzon)	596
118=	Billy No Mates XI	(M Bremner)	596
118=	Kinky Imports	(S Fraser)	596
121=	Star Chamber	(M MacMillan)	595
121=	Inter The Bin	(M Ward)	595
121=	Agepanthus FC	(W Heslop)	595
124=	No Midfield	(J B Portwood)	594
124=	Gangsters	(A Lone)	594
124=	Mars FC	(M Baber)	594
127=	Raj Is Back To Kill 6	(R Gohil)	593
127=	Farr Academicals	(A Kirkwood)	593
127=	Vat3	(K Howson)	593
127=	Fortune Hunters	(K Farhall)	593
131=	Layton's Lions 7	(R Layton)	592
131=	Sam Shanks	(S Shankar)	592
131=	Top Banana	(M Bottomley)	592
131=	I Hate Alan Hansen	(V Cox)	592
135=	Enid 2	(J Hagger)	591
135=	Mmm Fantasy Leaguers	(M Madden)	591
135=	Buggie Navvies	(D Banks)	591
135=	Skyforest	(A Burton)	591
139=	Come On You Rocks	(no name)	590
139=	Caroline C	(S A Luckhurst)	590
141=	Fendon United	(E Cowen)	589
141=	Caught Lucky	(C Wright)	589
141=	Bob Hope And No Hope	(T Blythe)	589
141=	Robzteam2	(R Preston)	589
141=	Animals	(L Clark)	589
141=	John Hunt Taunton A	(J Hunt)	589
141=	Airstir	(I Fyfe)	589
148	Man City Free Zone	(D Ingham)	588
149=	Yahboysir	(G Davidson)	587
149=	Kingsbury Tn 1	(D F King)	587
151=	RKV 3	(C Vanezis)	586
151=	Northern Lights	(C Wright)	586
151=	Holstenites	(D Blair)	586
151=	Bunnet Bhoys	(A Sharpe)	586
151=	Xpat Missiles	(M Jackson)	586
156=	Porcelain Dogs	(A Ibison)	585
156=	The Loggers	(C Wright)	585
156=	Inter Outers	(R Johnson)	585
156=	LFC Champs 96-97	(B Fazakerley)	585
160=	Dave's First XI	(D Quibell)	584
160=	The Far Side	(C Hadfield)	584
160=	Demolition Men	(J Murray)	584
160=	Roberts-Team 1	(M Roberts)	584
164=	Bacardi Boys	(M Woodley)	583
164=	Cookie's Gunners	(S Cook)	583
164=	S Gill Taunton A	(S Gill)	583
167	Mapflappers	(P Reid)	582
168	Lesley's Legmen	(L Michaelis)	581
169=	Patel One	(P Patel)	580
169=	Supersubs	(I Taylor)	580
169=	Daniel's Seishans	(V Cox)	580
169=	Foxy	(M Fox)	580
169=	Best Defence	(J Pregon)	580
174=	Shot On Sight 2	(P Goldstraw)	579
174=	Crooky Boys	(R Crook)	579
174=	Diplomatic Risk	(G Prichard)	579
174=	Byzantine Bricks	(S Houghton)	579
174=	Lynne's Lions	(L Hiorns)	579
179	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swirles)	578
180=	JD 3	(J Donaldson)	577
180=	St Bartholomews	(J M Bartholomew)	577
182=	Grimmers Army	(S Gray)	576
182=	Triple Top Tan	(P Bailey)	576
182=	Totted Five	(E Kisby)	576
182=	Doppelgangereutd	(J Whaling)	576
182=	John Hunt Taunton B	(J Hunt)	576
187=	Scottalia United	(S Goff)	575
187=	Sad & Grim Team	(J Swain)	575
187=	Bung Ho!	(G Watson)	575
187=	Schoko Zoo	(P Roach)	575
191=	Devslo Unt 1	(D Sloan)	574
191=	Jack's Nightmare	(N J Lane)	574
191=	Das Boot	(D A Sutton)	574
191=	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
191=	Grafton Willows	(R J Brown)	574
196=	It's About Revenge C	(R Gohil)	573
196=	C U O K	(G Weiss)	573
196=	Botak United 1	(J Pull)	573
199=	Wingless Wonders	(P Paynter)	572
199=	EJK's Unleashed	(E J Kitchen)	572
199=	Old Cameronians	(R J Brown)	572
199=	Dwyer's Tipsters	(J Dwyer)	572
199=	Langaller Lads	(N Finch)	572
199=	Drabx5	(D Edbrookestainer)	572
205=	Alancia FC	(A Stilliano)	571
205=	Flying Pigs	(M Macmillan)	571
205=	March Pass	(M McGovern)	571
208=	Dicksaes Tigers	(T Rawlings)	570
208=	Tungston Town	(J W George)	570
208=	What Ford Splash	(N P Lewis)	570
208=	Vat1	(K Howson)	570
212=	Steve's Aces	(S Brook)	569
212=	Hisham's Haggis	(H A Rahim)	569
212=	Havok	(P Williamson)	569
212=	Oct95-ITF Champ!	(M Sladden)	569
212=	Sucharita	(R Keenan)	569
212=	Ajaxpool	(C Strachan)	569
212=	Dutch Courage	(R van Ruitenbeek)	569
212=	Dodd's Aces	(C Dodd)	569
220=	Back In Bristol	(D Stone)	568
220=	Rubella	(T Wylie)	568
220=	Sooty's Puppets II	(E G Ryan)	568
220=	Nellie's Heros	(I Fox)	568
224=	Purple Rain	(B Gohil)	567
224=	Shack Attack	(R Shackleton)	567
224=	Rock Bottom	(E O'Gorman)	567
224=	Hannah's Heroes	(C Bennett)	567
224=	Powerage	(I Doughty)	567
229=	The Instructors	(K Cunion)	566
229=	Bubwith Utd 3	(M Larcombe)	566
229=	Ravn's Dream Team	(M Ravn)	566
229=	Lloydy's Barge	(D Goodwin)	566
233=	Red Star Storm	(P Mills)	565
233=	Papadopoulos Utd	(A Papadopoulos)	565
233=	Laughing Gravy	(D Clarke)	565
233=	No Help From Dad FC	(A du Gay)	565
233=	Here We Go (Again)	(D Postlethwaite)	565
233=	DRS Select XI 2	(D Swinburne)	565
233=	Aaa	(T Mills)	565
233=	Mercury 2	(D Attwood)	565
241=	Hammy's Heroes	(G Howard)	564
241=	Fairfield Dons	(R Yates)	564
241=	Inter The Net	(M Ward)	564
241=	Le Boeufeaters	(J Roebuck)	564
241=	Charlie's Angles	(C J Yates)	564
241=	Graham's Bungers	(G Watson)	564
241=	Lager Space FC	(D Mayall)	564
241=	Skyline Sizzlers	(T Gordon)	564
241=	Bob's Boys 6	(R Calder)	564
250	Wellard United	(T Shelley)	563

Daly reaches bottom of barrel at last-chance saloon

Daly: admitted to clinic

John Hopkins, golf correspondent, surveys the wreckage of a career blighted by drink problems

John Daly is in trouble again. His escapades since he burst to prominence by winning the 1991 US PGA championship have been enough to test the patience of a saint. The latest involving the 1995 Open champion occurred last week. When is it all going to end?

Drink is a recurring theme in many of these incidents. In December 1991, he damaged an hotel room in South Africa while he was drunk. In June 1992, he was removed from a New York-bound plane in Denver after a confrontation with a stewardess. He won his first major championship while an alcoholic, his second while on the wagon.

Since 1991, he has twice been suspended from the US PGA Tour and twice attended an alcohol rehabilitation centre. At different times since then, he has failed to sign his card, scuffled in a car park with a man three times his age, picked his ball up during a competitive round as well as being involved in well-publicised marital difficulties. He has been off the wagon, on it and off it again.

Last week, after a drinking session at Sloppy Joe's, a nightclub in Jacksonville, Florida, Daly allegedly did $1,000-worth of damage to his hotel room after a dispute with his wife, before being driven to hospital by Fuzzy Zoeller. On Sunday, Daly announced he was entering the Betty Ford Clinic alcohol rehabilitation programme.

"I have come to realise that this terrible disease is much tougher than I thought," he said in a statement on Sunday. "I apologise to others who struggle with me in fighting this disease. I am going to do my best and, hopefully, we will prevail together."

There was a time when one felt sympathy for Daly, an immature young man of 30, who is unable to cope with the attendant difficulties of being able to hit the ball a long way and being excessively well paid for doing so. Even when his fellow professionals pointed out how he gave up if he did not start with a good first round, he seemed to cut a sympathetic figure.

He gained a new generation of followers when he won the Open Championship at St Andrews in 1995, joining Jack Nicklaus, Johnny Miller and Tom Watson as the only men to have won two major titles before their 30th birthday. He hit the ball massive distances, driving six of the par fours during the event, for example.

Yet, he also demonstrated that he was more than a prodigiously long hitter. Four times in one round, he two-putted from more than a hundred feet, including one monster he paced off at 180 feet. The people of St Andrews took him to their hearts.

Such sympathy now seems misplaced because he has played so badly since. He gives the impression of taking people for a ride. In the Johnnie Walker Classic, in Australia, this year, for which he was handsomely rewarded for appearing, he began with a 77 and then added a 79 for a 36-hole total that was 12 over par. He finished 146th out of 154 competitors. One week later, in another tournament for which he was paid to appear, he finished 65th and the promoter said: "You cannot play cards all night, drink, smoke and eat hamburgers and expect to play top-class golf. You can't blame the world, only yourself."

The truth is golf no longer needs Daly as it once did. The hundreds of spectators who used to turn up to marvel at his prodigious hitting have been replaced by thousands who are drawn to watch Tiger Woods. At present, Woods appears to have the credentials to become the greatest name in the game. He is nearly ten years younger than Daly and hits the ball further. He tries his best, behaves with decorum and appeals to a much wider audience.

An article about Woods in a local paper in Jacksonville last week explained this rather well. Tiger is ... "Mr Multi Racial — part black, part white, part Indian, part Asian, part you, part me," it went. "There is a little bit of Tiger in every single one of us. And that is why we adore him. He is we."

Daly no longer does many of these things. He desperately needs help. His is a rare talent on the course when he cares to demonstrate it — and a sublime talent to destroy himself off it. This time, he should stay away from the game for a long time. Enough is enough.

HOCKEY: HOST CLUB OVERWHELMED BY EXPERIENCED GERMANS IN CUP WINNERS' CUP FINAL

Reading fail to contain Gladbacher's power play

Reading	2
Gladbacher	7

By Sydney Friskin

READING'S first venture into Europe ended in disappointment yesterday with a crushing defeat by the more experienced Gladbacher in the Prudential Cup Winners' Cup final. After taking a well-deserved lead, Reading, the host club, lost their way and by half-time the Germans had established a 3-1 lead.

For all their effort, Reading were eventually overwhelmed. They lacked a player of sufficient quality to support Pearn up front and it was left to Wyatt, their captain, to do most of the running from behind.

The Germans, on the other hand, had two top-class forwards in Hilgers and Bechmann, who combined well throughout. Bechmann was with the victorious Germany team in the recent five nations' tournament in Pakistan.

Reading began well and, after 11 minutes, Osborn found the net from a short corner, but the goal was disallowed because the shot was ruled too high. A minute later, Hoskin was suspended for a dangerous tackle and Gladbacher broke free to earn a penalty stroke. Krauss hit his shot against the woodwork and Reading were let off the hook, temporarily at least.

In the nineteenth minute, Bechmann dashed into the circle and released a reverse-stick shot that Mason saved. Wyatt celebrated this escape by fighting his way through the German defence and putting a rising shot into the net.

Gladbacher retaliated six minutes later with a goal by Kunz from a short corner. In the two minutes before half-time, Bechmann set up the chance for Kueskes to put them ahead and Kunz converted a penalty stroke for a 3-1 lead.

Reading's attacks in the second half held promise of an early score, but, although Pearn broke through on the left in the fiftieth minute, he lost control when confronted by the goalkeeper. Their hopes diminished after 51 minutes when Bechmann scored Gladbacher's fourth and all but expired completely five minutes later when Hilgers added another.

Klaus put Gladbacher 6-1 ahead before Reading reduced the lead in the 64th minute, Hoskin scoring from a well-worked short corner. Two minutes before the end, Hilgers added a seventh for the Germans.

WKS Grunwald, of Poland, won the bronze medal after defeating Real Club de Polo, of Barcelona, 4-1 in a highly-charged match for third place. Four Spaniards and three Poles were temporarily suspended and one player from each side sent off.

READING: S Mason; A Holden, J Wyatt, C Oscroft, M Hoskin, R Todd, G Edwards, K Sanders, S Ashdown, Manpreet Kocher, M Pearn. Substitutes used: J Slay, P Osborn, A Jones.

GLADBACHER: A Hemmersbach; T Krauss, A Krauss, J Wendgartz, F Kunz, U Klaus, D Musialowski, K Meschede, A Kueskes, M Hilgers, C Bechmann. Substitutes used: J Klatt, T Menke, J Laukotter

Umpires: H Ehlers (Denmark) and R Ten Cate (Holland).

DES JENSON

Pearn, the Reading forward, tries to evade the attentions of Krauss during the Cup Winners' Cup final yesterday

Thompson's efforts in vain for Ipswich

Ipswich	1
Kampong	4

By a Correspondent

IPSWICH'S hopes of emulating Hightown's triumph last year were crushed when they lost to Kampong in the final of the women's European Cup Winners' Cup in Utrecht yesterday. The result was a disappointment for the Suffolk team, who had coasted through their group matches undefeated and went into the final with high hopes of upsetting their hosts.

However, just as the Dutch had ruined Great Britain's Olympic medal prospects in Atlanta last year, they again rose to the occasion with a superb performance. Their speed and penetration on the flanks and precision at penalty corners effectively ended Ipswich's chances.

Kuipers, one of three Olympians in Kampong's line-up, opened the scoring in the twelfth minute when she hammered in the rebound from a penalty corner. Ipswich were back on terms within six minutes when Fry beat the goalkeeper with a powerful low shot from the penalty spot.

Under increasing pressure, Ipswich, the national league leaders, could do little about Lewin's accurate strike from a neatly switched penalty corner to make it 2-1. The home team also missed a great opportunity to increase their lead in the thirtieth minute, when Hoogendoorn's penalty stroke was brilliantly saved by Thompson.

Thompson continued to deny the Dutch, who won a succession of penalty corners after the break, but Vossen finally found a way past her when she whipped in a third goal in the 41st minute. Verhaegh rounded off a deserved victory when she scored 11 minutes later.

In the play-off for the bronze medal, Dickenscheid scored a hat-trick for the German side, Russelsheim, in a 5-1 win as they proved too powerful for Pegasus.

Edinburgh preserved their status in the A division of the competition when they beat Amiens 1-0, Gilmour scoring the dramatic, decisive goal for the Scots in the sixth minute of extra time.

IPSWICH: J Thompson; K Spencer, L Catchpole, A Strange, C Adcock, D Rawlinson, L Youngs, T Fry, S Lister, S Bamfield, L King. Substitutes: K van Erp, V Dixon, V Sandall

KAMPONG: S de Heij; M Vossen, M Derks, M Hoogendoorn, C de Bruijn, H Kan, M van Boven, J Lewin, A Verhaegh, E Kuipers, E Mulder. Substitutes: E Verhoeven, N de Mey.

Umpires: G Spitaleri (Italy) and G Sheaman (Ireland).

GOLF

King wears the crown as Robbins falls away

By Patricia Davies

THERE were no rabbits on the course in the final round of the 26th Nabisco Dinah Shore at Mission Hills country club on Sunday — just a big, white, fluffy Easter bunny near the 18th green — and Betsy King brought her experience to bear, to win the title for the third time and a cheque for $135,000 (around £85,000).

King, 41, from Pennsylvania, had not won since June 1995, when she became the fourteenth member of the Hall of Fame. A solid round of 71, one under par, enabled her to win her sixth major championship with a total of 276, 12 under, two shots ahead of Kris Tschetter, who was the runner-up in the US Women's Open last year.

Amy Fruhwirth, the petite (5ft 2in) and bubbly former US Women's Amateur champion, shared third place on 279 with Kelly Robbins, who struggled home in 40, four over par.

Lisa Hackney, of Staffordshire, making her debut in the Dinah, scarcely put a spike out of place in a final 68, coming home in 33, with birdies at the 11th, 15th and 16th, to finish fifth, alongside the former champion, Nanci Bowen. Hackney earned over $35,000, which should ensure she keeps her place on the Ladies' Professional Golf Association Tour.

"That's the best I've seen Lisa hit the ball," Laura Davies said. Davies finished on 286, alongside her Solheim Cup team-mates, Liselotte Neumann and Kathryn Marshall, killing off her faint hopes — she was nine shots behind the leaders, King and Robbins, after 54 holes — with a double-bogey six at the 3rd. At least Davies made the crowd roar at the 526-yard 18th, when she cleared the lake in front of the green with a four iron after a drive of 300 yards to set up a birdie four.

"I'd need a 62," had been Davies's assessment of her chances and she was spot on. Even Mary Beth Zimmerman's course record 63 on Sunday would have left the Englishwoman a stroke behind King. Zimmerman was so far back that she started at the 10th, but ten birdies and one bogey catapulted her into the top ten on 284, alongside Hiromi Kobayashi and Annika Sorenstam, who dropped four shots in the last six holes.

King was concentrating on finishing second when Robbins held a three-stroke lead on the field with eight holes to play. Then King birdied the 11th and Robbins, who did not, dropped four shots in three holes. King, who did not three-putt once in 72 holes, pulled clear of Tschetter with a birdie three at the 16th and, as champion, made the dive into the lake at the last.

Faldo looks to regain his master's touch

By Our Sports Staff

NICK FALDO will take to the practice range and the gym this week to try to rediscover the spark that could bring him a fourth Masters title in 13 days' time. Faldo was 24th in the Players' Championship at Sawgrass at the weekend, his final warm-up tournament before Augusta, finishing 16 shots behind the winner, Steve Elkington.

Elkington's victory, by seven shots, means the Australian is now the leading money-earner on the US PGA Tour this season with almost $1 million (around £670,000) in prize-money from four starts. He now moves on to the Freeport McDermott Classic in New Orleans. Faldo, meanwhile, is heading back to his home in Lake Nona, Florida.

"I'll practise in the mornings, then it'll be into the gym in the afternoons," he said. "Aerobics, stretching, strengthening everything. I think I'm pretty fit, but you can always get better. I'm trying to get my legs stronger. As for my game, I'm pretty close to where I want to be. There's just a few bad shots creeping in and I must get my putting going."

It looked as though he had done that when his final round in the Players' Championship started with an outward 32. Faldo came home in 40 strokes, though, to finish with a level-par 72 and again raise the doubts, although it is worth remembering that he missed the cut at Sawgrass last year and, a fortnight later, collected another green jacket.

Before Colin Montgomerie can contemplate putting on the green jacket he must improve his putting on the greens. "I'm world No 3, but don't win enough," Montgomerie said, after finishing joint-seventh at Sawgrass. "I've only had 13 victories and should have had an awful lot more.

"I feel that was a monumental effort to finish in the top ten, missing the number of putts I did. I'm not saying I would have won if I had putted half-decent, but I would have given Steve a run for his money."

Montgomerie could do worse than ask Elkington for advice. In a field boasting all of the world's top 50 players, the 34-year-old was in a league of his own, and said: "I don't think anyone will find a round in my career where I have not putted well when I've been in contention, but that was probably my best ever putting performance. I made every putt I had to from within ten feet. I want to be humble about it, but I blew away the best field we've ever had."

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	75	170	good	varied	good	fair	2	30/3
(Very good Easter skiing: high runs great)								
St Anton	50	400	good	varied	slushy	fair	3	29/3
(All mid/upper runs skiing well)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	80	240	good	spring	slush	sun	3	28/3
(Some runs now closed but good skiing overall)								
Avoriaz	110	130	good	spring	slushy	sun	2	28/3
(All higher slopes good, worn/slushy low down)								
Méribel	20	190	good	varied	slush	fine	6	28/3
(Pistes above 2,000m in good shape)								
Evalier	30	190	good	crusty	worn	sun	8	19/3
(Very good spring skiing on higher slopes)								
Tignes	120	185	good	varied	fair	sun	0	29/3
(Plenty of good skiing available: best high up)								
ITALY								
Livigno	50	190	good	varied	fair	fine	7	29/3
(Lowest pistes slushy but most in fine shape)								
SWITZERLAND								
Mürren	40	90	fair	varied	fair	fine	3	29/3
(South-facing slopes wearing but others still OK)								
Wengen	5	100	good	varied	closed	sun	5	29/3
(All upper runs still skiing well)								
Zermatt	10	190	fair	varied	art	fine	4	28/3
(Best snow above 2,200m: glacier good)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New York 101 Orlando 86; Toronto 102 Miami 97; Indiana 103 Los Angeles Clippers 96 (OT); Cleveland 84 Dallas 80; Philadelphia 96 Detroit 92; Minnesota 113 Golden State 102; Denver 99 Milwaukee 97; Phoenix 107 Seattle 106

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester 88 Birmingham 92; Sheffield 68 Thames Valley 69; London 91 Crystal Palace 74; Leopards 93 Derby 90

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Solent 78 Coventry 97.

CRICKET

Second one-day international match

South Africa v Australia

PORT ELIZABETH (Australia won toss): Australia beat South Africa by seven wickets

SOUTH AFRICA

A M Bacher c Bevan b Dale	3
L J Koen c M E Waugh b Dale	0
J H Kallis b Gillespie	82
D J Cullinan b Dale	0
J N Rhodes c Reiffel b Bevan	57
*W J Cronje b Gillespie	31
S M Pollock c Dale b Warne	9
L Klusener not out	27
†D J Richardson run out	1
P L Symcox not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 3, nb 3)	11
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	221

A A Donald did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-4, 3-15, 4-120, 5-181, 6-183, 7-212, 8-215.

BOWLING: Reiffel 9-0-33-0; Dale 7-3-18-3, Blewett 10-1-42-0; Gillespie 10-0-51-2; Warne 6-0-39-1; Bevan 8-0-33-1.

AUSTRALIA

M E Waugh not out	115
*M A Taylor c Cullinan b Donald	17
S G Law c Rhodes b Symcox	33
S K Warne lbw b Symcox	0
S R Waugh not out	50
Extras (lb 2, w 2, nb 3)	7
Total (3 wkts, 45 overs)	222

G S Blewett, M G Bevan, †A C Gilchrist, P R Reiffel, J N Gillespie and A Dale did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-47, 2-115, 3-115.

BOWLING: Pollock 8-0-39-0; Kallis 5-0-21-0; Donald 9-1-22-1; Cronje 5-0-25-0; Symcox 10-0-65-2; Klusener 8-1-48-0.

Man-of-the-match: M E Waugh.

Umpires: R E Koertzen and C J Mitchley.

CYCLING

ALSEMBERG, Belgium: Flèche brabançonne race (183km): 1, G Planegonda (It) 4hr 13min 00sec; 2, M den Bakker (Holl); 3, M Boogerd (Holl) both same time; 4, L Roosen (Bel) at 11sec; 5, M Wauters (Bel) at 22sec; 6, C Bomans (Bel) same time

ROAD RACES: Girvan three-day race: Fourth stage (66.7 miles): 1, R Hayles (Team Ambrosia) 2hr 40min 30sec; 2, G Holmes (Adidas-SciCon) at 2sec; 3, B Fleming (Cannons Sports Club) same time. Final overall positions: 1, Hayles 8:36:22; 2, W Randle (Castelli Sport) at 42sec; 3, J Ramsbottom (North Wirral Velo) at 45sec. Tour of the Border four-day race: Fourth stage (Northumberland, 68 miles): 1, J Flanagan (Bronte Wheelers) 3:05:00, 2, J Lister (VC Voodoo) at 3sec; 3, W Mitchinson (VC Azzurri) at 7sec. Final overall positions: 1, G Rose (Cwmcarn Paragon) 12:27:29; 2, G Turnbull (GS Metro) at 28sec; 3, N Fox (Bradford Olympic RC) at 2:00.

TIME-TRIALS: Alton CC hilly (Privett, Hampshire, 50 kilometres): 1, D Cook (Middridge CRT) 1hr 12min 52sec (event record); 2, P Lilley (Tamworth RCC) 1:15:55; 3, D Johnson (High Wycombe CC) 1:16:12. Team: VC Venta 4:08:19. Bishop's Stortford CC hilly (Great Hormead, 27 miles): 1, J Wainman (Hull Thursday RC) 1:10:08; 2, K Platts (Coalville Wheelers) 1:10:42; 3, T Cox (Hemel Hempstead CC) 1:11:20. Team: Cambridge CC 3:55:47. Cleveland Coureurs (Stokesley, North Yorkshire, 25.7 miles): 1, H Walker (GS Metro) 55:03 (course and event record); 2, N Jackson (Cleveland Wheelers) 57:22; 3, J Rickards (GS Metro) 58:07. Team: GS Metro 2:53:52. Weaver Valley CC (Chelford, Cheshire, 25 miles): 1, M Belfield (Stone Wheelers) 55:02; 2, W Moore (Leo RC) 55:25; 3, J Howard (Merseyside Wheelers) 56:41. Team: Team Rapide 2:57:03. East Anglian CC (Dersham, Norfolk, 25 miles): 1, A Barber (VC Norwich) 57:37; 2, S Lyons (VC Norwich) 59:19; 3, J Glaster (Mildenhall CC) 1:00:24. Team: VC Norwich 2:58:55. Hereford and District Wheelers (Stretton Sugwas, Hereford, 25 miles): 1, S Haradine (Cwmcarn Paragon) 58:36; 2, R Bradley (Venom BC) 59:07; 3, C Wallace (Hirwaun Wheelers) 59:19. Team: Cwmcarn Paragon 3:07:31. Brighton Mitre CC hilly (Patcham, East Sussex, 25 miles): 1, T Stevens (Team Clean) 1:01:16, 2, A Saltzer (East Grinstead CC) 1:03:47; 3, J Limpus (Lewes Wanderers) 1:05:07. Team: Lewes Wanderers 3:26:33. Tavistock Wheelers (Yelverton, 10 miles): 1, C O'Neill (Camel Valley CC) 22:15; 2, J Bullingham (Camel Valley CC) 23:13; 3, S Payne (Plymouth Corinthian CC) 24:54. Team: Plymouth Corinthian CC 1:15:24

GOLF

JACKSONVILLE, Florida: Players' Championship: Leading final scores (United States unless stated): 272: S Elkington (Aus) 66, 69, 68, 69. 279: S Hoch 69, 71, 65, 74. 280: L Roberts 70, 74, 67, 69. 281: B Faxon 70, 69, 72, 70. 282: B Andrade 68, 72, 68, 74. 283: T Lehman 67, 71, 73, 72. 284: C Montgomerie (GB) 70, 70, 71, 73; T Tolles 70, 67, 73, 74; M Brooks 72, 68, 70, 74. 285: F Couples 71, 74, 71, 69; R Cochran 67, 74, 72, 72; E Els (SA) 68, 71, 72, 74. Other scores: 286: P Azinger 72, 72, 71, 71; S Appleby (Aus) 71, 71, 70, 74; F Zoeller 67, 72, 73, 74; L Mize 68, 68, 74, 76. 287: C Parry (Aus) 71, 67, 80, 69. 288: N Price (Zim) 75, 68, 74, 71; N Faldo (GB) 71, 72, 73, 72; M Calcavecchia 67, 75, 71, 75. 289: B Langer (Ger) 71, 73, 75, 70; T Woods 71, 72, 72, 73; C Perry 74, 71, 70, 74; V Singh (Fiji) 71, 69, 74, 75. 290: L Janzen 73, 73, 74, 70. 291: C Rocca (It) 74, 69, 73, 75; M McNulty (Zim) 71, 73, 69, 78. 293: M Ozaki (Japan) 70, 76, 71, 76; H Sutton 70, 71, 74, 78. 294: T Watson 70, 71, 79, 74; G Norman (Aus) 71, 72, 72, 79. 299: M O'Meara 73, 72, 76, 78; A Lyle (GB) 68, 74, 77, 80.

RANCHO MIRAGE, California: Nabisco Dinah Shore Championship: Leading final scores (United States unless stated): 276: B King 71, 67, 67, 72. 278: K Tschetter 66, 76, 66, 70. 279: K Robbins 70, 67, 68, 74; A Fruhwirth 69, 70, 68, 72. 282: L Hackney (GB) 70, 72, 72, 68; N Bowen 70, 74, 70, 68. 283: T Barrett 70, 71, 70, 72. Other scores: 284: H Kobayashi (Japan) 72, 69, 71, 72. 285: D Pepper 69, 70, 71, 75; J Geddes 68, 75, 72, 70; J Crafter (Aus) 70, 71, 72, 72. 286: L Davies (GB) 70, 70, 74, 72; L Neumann (Swe) 74, 71, 69, 72; K Marshall (GB) 66, 73, 73, 74. 287: P Johnson (GB) 75, 72, 72, 72. 291: A-M Palli (Fr) 73, 74, 70, 74. 292: A Nicholas (GB) 72, 71, 77, 72. 295: H Alfredsson (Swe) 74, 74, 69, 78. Missed cut: 151: M Figueras-Dotti (Sp) 77, 74. 152: S Croce (It) 78, 74. 153: H Dobson (GB) 79, 74, S Strudwick (GB) 77, 76. 154: F Descampe (Bel) 79, 75; C Pierce (GB) 76, 78; C Hj Koch (Swe) 76, 78. 155: C Nilsmark (Swe) 76, 79.

HOCKEY

READING: Prudential men's European Cup Winners' Cup: A division: Lower place play-offs: Avoca (Ire) 3 Amsterdam (Holl) 4; Ekaterinburg (Russ) 3 Stade Français (Fr) 3 (Ekaterinburg won 5-4 on penalty strokes). Ireland and France relegated to B division. Third place play-off: Grunwald (Pol) 4 Polo Barcelona (Sp) 1. Final: Gladbacher (Ger) 7 Reading 2.

CARDIFF: Men's European Cup Winners' Cup: B division: Fifth-eighth place play-offs: Llanishen and Llandaff (Wales) 0 Eagles (Gibraltar) 0; (Llanishen and Llandaff won 4-2 on penalty strokes); Partille (Swe) 2 Lazio (It) 3. Third place play-off: Western Grasshopper (Scot) 5 Prague (Cz Rep) 2. Final: Stroitel Brest (Bela) 4 Louvain (Bel) 3

UTRECHT: Women's European Cup Winners' Cup: A division: Fifth-seventh place play-offs: Tekstilschik (Russ) 3 Terrassa (Sp) 1 (Spain relegated); Edinburgh Ladies 1 Amiens 0 (France relegated). Third place play-off: Russelsheim (Ger) 5 Pegasus (Ire) 1. Final: Kampong (Holl) 4 Ipswich 1

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): New Jersey 5 Los Angeles 2; Chicago 3 Buffalo 2; Anaheim 1 Detroit 0 (OT); Dallas 3 Vancouver 2; St Louis 3 Philadelphia 2

ORIENTEERING

BODMIN: Jan Kjellstrom international (final day): Relays: Men (4x7.6km): 1, Warrior (R Goddard, J Edward, J Howell, S Palmer) 163min 37sec; 2, O K Tyr (C McIntyre, E Forsgren, J Musgrave, S Howell) 168.30; 3, South Yorkshire (D Barker, B Edwards, C Adams, M Chapman) 169.53. Women (3x4.8km): 1, South Yorkshire (J James, W Smallwood, K Bryan-Jones) 100 56; 2, Sheffield University (J Smith, C Williams, J Stevenson) 101 01; 3, Zug-Switzerland (D Gruniger, M Bickel, A Gruniger) 107 06

RIFLE SHOOTING

BISLEY: Easter Meeting: St Georges I: 1, R Hawley 75.13pts; 2, R Shaw 75.13, 3, K Martin 75.13 (after count-out). St Georges III: 1, D Calvert 73.12; 2, R Poole 73.11; 3, J Langley 73.11 (after count out). Queens I: 1, G Morris 105.21, 2, H Hunter 104.16; 3, W Dixon 104.15. Queens II: 1, A Ogilvie 149.21, 2, G Morris 148.21; 3, H Kilpatrick 148.19. Queens III (900yds): 1, P Chance 75.11; 2, R Hebblethwaite 75.9; 3, A Pearse 74.13. Queens III (1,000yds): 1, R Barrington 73.10; 2, R Hatcher 73.9; 3, H Hunter 73.8. Short-range aggregate: 1, G Morris 328.45; 2, A Ogilvie 325.49; 3, M Miller 325.45. Long-range aggregate: 1, D Calvert 218.28; 2, H Hunter 217.18; 3, R Betts 216.22. Grand aggregate: 1, D Calvert 541.75; 2, R Betts 537.57; 3, R Hebblethwaite 536.63.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League

Salford 27 Paris 26

Salford Reds: Tries: Rogers 2, Naylor, Sini. Goals: Blakeley 5. Dropped goal: Blakeley. Paris Saint-Germain: Tries: Bergman 3, Bird 2. Goals: Robinson 3. Att: 3,195.

St Helens 32 Sheffield 12

St Helens: Tries: Hunte 3, Arnold, Hammond, Newlove. Goals: Briers 4. Sheffield Eagles: Tries: Broadbent, Pinkney. Goals: Aston 2. Att: 10,344.

Warrington 35 Wigan 24

Warrington Wolves: Tries: Vagana 3, Penny, Shelford, Tatupu. Goals: Roper 5. Dropped goal: Shelford. Wigan Warriors: Tries: Ellison 2, A Johnson, Murdock, Radlinski. Goals: Farrell 2. Att: 7,213

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Helens	3	3	0	0	82	46	6
Salford	3	3	0	0	66	52	6
Bradford	2	2	0	0	88	38	4
London	3	2	0	1	90	56	4
Leeds	2	2	0	0	60	40	4
Halifax	3	2	0	1	65	48	4
Wigan	4	2	0	2	76	89	4
Paris	4	1	0	3	72	87	2
Sheffield	4	1	0	3	64	86	2
Warrington	4	1	0	3	91	152	2
Castleford	3	0	0	3	26	55	0
Oldham	3	0	0	3	66	97	0

First division

Dewsbury 9 Hull 16

Dewsbury Rams: Try: Eaton. Goals: Eaton 2. Dropped goal: Eaton. Hull: Tries: Danby, Divorty, Vaikona. Goals: Howitt 2. Att: 1,937.

Hull K R 26 Workington 12

Hull Kingston Rovers: Tries: Chamberlain 2, Gene, Goulbourne, Rouse. Goals: M Fletcher 3. Workington Town: Tries: Campbell 2. Goals: Kitchin 2. Att: 2,208

Wakefield 10 Huddersfield 40

Wakefield Trinity: Tries: Kenworthy, Pike. Goal: Davis. Huddersfield Giants: Tries: Hanger 2, Marsden, Russell 2, Schofield, Weston. Goals: Weston 6. Att: 3,431

Whitehaven 30 Widnes 14

Whitehaven Warriors: Tries: Joe, Lester, Lewthwaite, Mulumu. Goals: Hetherington 6. Dropped goals: Joe, Smith. Widnes Vikings: Tries: D Myler 2, Thornley. Goal: Lytha. Att: 1,305.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull	6	5	1	0	162	57	11
Huddersfield	5	5	0	0	197	62	10
Wakefield	5	3	1	1	100	93	7
Whitehaven	6	2	1	3	107	138	5
Hull K R	5	2	0	3	110	98	4
Keighley	4	2	0	2	75	78	4
Widnes	4	2	0	2	62	106	4
Dewsbury	5	2	0	3	68	115	4
Featherstone	5	1	1	3	89	107	3
Workington	5	1	0	4	74	104	2
Swinton	6	1	0	5	72	163	2

Second division

Barrow	34	Prescot	4
Hunslet	44	Rochdale	17
Lancashire Lynx	31	Batley	14
Leigh	4	Carlisle	34
York	50	Doncaster	8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlisle	6	5	0	1	180	64	10
Rochdale	6	5	0	1	157	120	10
Lancashire L	6	4	0	2	162	123	8
Batley	5	3	0	2	194	80	6
Hunslet	4	3	0	1	139	66	6
Leigh	4	2	0	2	87	102	4
York	6	2	0	4	120	186	4
Bramley	2	1	0	1	43	58	2
Barrow	5	1	0	4	100	145	2
Prescot	5	1	0	4	64	147	2
Doncaster	5	0	0	5	49	204	0

AUSTRALIAN SUPER LEAGUE: Canterbury Bulldogs 14, North Queensland Cowboys 15, Brisbane Broncos 14; Cronulla Sharks 12.

RUGBY UNION

Courage Clubs Championship

Second division

London Scottish 34 Wakefield 3

London Scottish: Tries: Smith, Hunter, Holmes. Cons: Steele 2. Pens: Steele 5. Wakefield: Pen: Jackson.

SOUTH WEST: First division: Salisbury 12 Bridgwater 61

CLUB MATCH: Lydney 43 *Stroud 22*

Super 12 tournament

Auckland 49 Queensland 26

Auckland Blues: Tries: Lima 2, Blowers 2, Spencer, Vidiri. Cons: Cashmore 5. Pens: Cashmore 3. Queensland Reds: Tries: Little, Pini. Cons: Eales 2. Pens: Eales 4.

(In Auckland)

BUENOS AIRES: Fira Under-19 youth tournament: Final: Argentina 18 France 12. Third place play-off: Wales 30 Ireland 17. Fifth place play-off: South Africa 43 Scotland 11

SAILING

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Fourth leg (Sydney to Cape Town. Positions at 13.58GMT yesterday, with miles to Cape Town): 1, Group 4 1,581; 2, Concert 1,609. 3, Toshiba Wave Warrior 1,613, 4, Commercial Union 1,689; 5, Save The Children 1,747; 6, Motorola 1,759, 7, Global Teamwork 1,788, 8, 3Com 1,881; 9, Time & Tide 1,939; 10, Ocean Rover 1,941, 11, Nuclear Electric 2,007; 12, Courtaulds International 2,082; 13, Pause To Remember 2,126, 14, Heath Insured II 2,140

SNOOKER

PLYMOUTH: British Open: First round: A Hamilton (Eng) bt L Richardson (Eng) 5-2; D Dale (Wal) bt J White (Eng) 5-3; W Thorne (Eng) bt S Ali (Pak) 5-4; D Taylor (N Ire) bt S Murphy (Ire) 5-2; D Harold (Eng) bt B Snaddon (Scot) 5-4. Second round: S Davis (Eng) bt M Davies (Eng) 5-0; G Wilkinson (Eng) bt D Henry (Scot) 5-1; M Williams (Wales) bt N Pearce (Eng) 5-0.

SPEEDWAY

TYNE/TWEED TROPHY: Second leg: Newcastle 51 (J Olsen 15, G Taylor 12, S Swales 11) Berwick 39 (S Lamb 10, D Keats 10) (Newcastle win 100-80 on agg)

SPRING TROPHY: First leg: Glasgow 53 (N Collins 12, S Kourtney 17, S McDonald 10, M Powell 10) Edinburgh 36 (K McKinna 17)

SQUASH

CARDIFF: Leekes British Open: First qualifying round: Men: N Taylor (Lancashire) bt A Wagih (Egypt) 11-15, 15-3, 15-12, 15-9. Women: R Grinham (Aus) bt K Keevil (Aus) 9-3, 2-9, 9-4, 9-3; V Atkinson (Holl) bt S Bartel (Ger) 9-1, 9-6, 9-5, S Cook (NZ) bt E Major (Aus) 9-10, 10-9, 7-9, 9-2, 9-3. First round: Men: M Cairns (GB) bt D Palmer (Aus) 15-12, 15-10, 17-14; B Martin (Aus) bt P Marshall (GB) 15-12, 15-8, 15-9; A Hill (Aus) bt A Thoren (Swe) 17-15, 14-17, 16-11, 13-15, 15-12; P Nicol (Scot) bt P Johnson (Kent) 7-15, 15-17, 15-14, 15-7, 15-6. Women: S Fitzgerald (Aus) bt S Shabana (Egypt) 9-2, 9-0, 9-1, C Nitch (SA) bt T Shenton (GB) 9-4, 9-6, 9-0; L Irving (Aus) bt T Weeks (Aus) 4-9, 9-2, 9-4, 9-5, N Grainger (SA) bt M Bell (Aus) 9-5, 9-7, 10-8.

TENNIS

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Lipton championships: Men: Final: T Muster (Austria) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 7-6, 6-3, 6-1.

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LAW

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New disclosure provisions call for new approaches by defence solicitors, says **Roger Ede**

In the name of justice

ALISTAIR MacDONALD

Gerry Conlon is released after the Guildford Four's convictions are overturned on appeal

New provisions on disclosure by the police to the prosecution and the defence in all criminal cases come into force today. The proposals also sweep away the law made by judges in miscarriage of justice cases to ensure proper disclosure.

The failure of the police and the Crown to disclose evidence inconvenient to their case has been a feature of most of the *proven and alleged miscarriages* of justice of the past 20 years. Since the 1970s, numerous people have been wrongly sentenced to years in prison because of failures to disclose vital evidence to the defence. Examples include the Birmingham Six (16 years in jail), the Guildford Four (15 years), the Maguire Seven (up to nine years), Judith Ward (18 years), Stefan Kiszko (16 years) and the Bridgewater Three (18 years).

"Non-disclosure," Lord Justice *Glidewell said in the* appeal of Judith Ward in 1993, is a *"potent source of* injustice".

In the Guildford Four case, for instance, Gerry Conlon had a cast-iron alibi all along. An alibi of which he knew nothing. He was not in a position to request its disclosure. An alibi witness had seen Conlon asleep at a hostel in Kilburn at the time he was supposed to be carrying out one of the bombings miles away. The witness statement was passed by police to the director of public prosecutions but did not become available to the defendants for another 15 years.

Could such mistakes hap*pen again? Defence lawyers* believe they could and are *worried* that the new rules place too heavy a reliance on the police, who have the responsibility for identifying and informing the prosecutor about material they have held back that either undermines their case or helps the defence.

Until now, the defence has had relatively free access to this material and, knowing of its existence, has been able to call on the court to arbitrate if the prosecution has refused to allow its inspection. The changes introduced by the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 and its Code of Practice meant that the po*lice are expected to adopt the* defence solicitor's role and provide evidence that could defeat their case. Yet too many officers regard any probing by the defence as an unnecessary barrier to convicting the "plainly guilty" instead of an essential safeguard and the natural course will be for the officer to select and reveal only material that supports the police version of events.

Research has shown that there are strong pressures on *police officers to build a case* around a particular suspect, *screening out contradictory* evidence, ignoring shortcom*ings in the police investigation* and closing their minds to other possibilities. The videotaping of police officers interviewing prosecution witnesses has shown how they influence witness evidence by a variety of techniques including the extensive use of leading questions, verbal domination of the interview by the police officer, omission of relevant things said by the witness and inclu*sion of things not said, failure* to reflect the witness's uncer*tainty or confusion about fac*tual assertions, use of the of*ficer's own grammatical style* to distort claims made by the witness and failure to allow the witness to correct errors before signing the statement. Significantly, in Scotland defence solicitors interview all the prosecution witnesses themselves before trial.

What the Crown Prosecution Service and the defence normally see reflects only the latest stages in a sequence of actions by police officers and others. The CPS, the defence and the courts may be left in the dark about the history of the evidence disclosed. Though the defence may apply to the court to order the dis*closure of material held by the police, it first has to show how* this helps its particular case. *Without seeing it, the defence* may not know how it is relevant and unless it can show its relevance will not be allowed to see it.

So what can the defence do? How can it grapple with this restrictive new law? If the police cannot be expected to reveal their own shortcomings and the CPS is hard-pressed just to review the disclosed evidence, it falls on the defence to show that the prosecution case is not what it seems. Today, the Law Society publishes *Active Defence*, an analysis of problem areas in police and forensic investigation techniques and an explanation of pro-active tactics and methods *of defence preparation aimed* at exposing these.

Written by me and Dr Eric Shepherd, the forensic psychologist in the Bridgewater Three case who shot holes in the Molloy confession, it shows solicitors how, by analysis, they can identify what is problematic in the evidence disclosed to them or missing from it altogether. It explains how they can then best deal with the new restrictions on disclosure in order to obtain the "behind the scenes" material that can expose hidden flaws in the prosecution case.

Unless defence solicitors are able to get access to police material forming the background to the evidence presented to the court, there is a risk that not *only will history repeat itself* and miscarriages of justice continue to occur but that this time they will stay undetected.

- *The author is secretary of the Law Society's Criminal Law Committee.* Active Defence *is published by the Law Society, (£45.95 plus p&p). Details: 01235 465656.*

On the square, but are they on the level?

BRIEF

PATRICK STEVENS

The Crown Prosecutor licked his lips nervously. "What do you mean losing my job?" I was defending a young woman on a charge of drink driving and, at her insistence, called her father as a character witness. The prosecutor, surprised, asked why. I managed to keep a straight face as I told him that the father was a senior Freemason and unless the charge was dropped, the prosecutor would be out of a job.

He looked anxious, then realised I was teasing. The charge was not dropped and the woman was convicted. The significance of the incident is that though Freemasons may not have any power, there is a widespread feeling in the criminal justice system that they may have.

The Home Affairs Select Committee received more than a whiff of this feeling when it was taking evidence. Last week, the committee concluded that greater openness would remove such suspicions. They recommend that police, JPs, judges, and crown prosecutors should have to register publicly their membership of Freemasonry. Even better, the MPs said, if Freemasons opted for open*ness and disclosure* themselves.

A *distinction must be drawn* between private and public functions. It is perfectly legitimate for a solicitor to decide to go easy on billing a masonic client who is down on his luck, but it is wrong to drop a charge against someone because he is a mason. I am both a non-mason and cynical about human nature, but I have never come across any direct evidence of masons using their *connections improperly. This* does not mean that it does not happen and I *have heard a legal executive boasting that he* could always get a favourable result when he appeared before a masonic district judge. I also know of one minor judicial appointment that is only explicable in terms of influence, but whether it is masonic or otherwise I cannot say.

The difficulty is that many clients believe that masons have disproportionate power in the courts. It can be particularly embarrassing with women matrimonial clients who tell you that it is no good going to court because their husband is a prominent mason and all *the judges are in his lodge. The source of this* information is usually the husband. It can be *quite unnerving having the client interpret*ing all the proceedings in terms of who is a *mason* and who is not.

The fears are not confined to the clients. One non-masonic solicitor phoned me to warn me not to sue a masonic solicitor because they would all "gang up on you". I think his fears were misplaced, but he is not unusual *in thinking that masons will exact* revenge on anyone who slights a member.

The *most disquieting element is that many* masons often not only keep their membership secret, but will actually deny it. My suspicion is that Rotarians are more active than masons in doing favours for each other, but because they wear lapel badges it is all very visible and can be seen to be harmless. Some members of Round Table use the organisation for business contact purposes, despite it being prohibited. Round Tablers are even more visible than Rotarians and not only have lapel badges but car stickers.

It is the element of secrecy with masons which causes concern. It is in the nature of men to form clubs and societies and do each *other favours simply because they know each* other. Women barristers have argued that Freemasonry *discriminates against them in* the law because they are excluded from membership and thus cannot get to meet judges socially and be recommended for judicial appointments. As one of the rituals involves exposing the right breast, women barristers would not go unnoticed if they were allowed to join. Joining the local golf club may be a less *taxing way of getting known.*

Unlike the golf club, there appears to outsiders to be no purpose in masonry other than furthering the interests of fellow masons, although masons claim that much of their work is charitable. Round Table and Rotary have a public charitable function, despite being primarily fellowship organisations, but there is a significant lack of community buses *proudly presented by the local* lodge.

The *religious and moral basis of* Freemasonry is slight to say the least. There is the concept of passing a skilled craft from member to member and the primitive deification of the Master Builder. One lapsed member described the rituals to me as "pages of mindless gobbledygook to be learnt by heart".

Masons keep their rituals secret, probably for the good reason that if they became public, they would be the object of mirth. While no one would want *to interfere with the right of middle-aged men* to wear peculiar garb in private, the secret *membership of such organisations is incom*patible with the open administration of justice. An *open register of all memberships* for judges, magistrates and court officials would go a long way to dispelling rumours of undue influence. It would also give me one less thing to tease crown prosecutors about.

- *The author is a practising solicitor*

In their footsteps

INNS AND OUTS

THE publication of last week's list of new silks contained five barristers *who are the sons of* judges: Peter Clarke, Henry Rutile, Jeremy Stuart-Smith, Andrew Popplewell and George Leggatt. Not that there is any suggestion of an old boy network: the Lord Chancellor is rigorous in recommending on merit.

The list also broke fresh ground with the first two QC solicitors, Arthur Marriott and Lawrence Collins. Honorary QCs this year included the well-known academics Professors Michael Zander and Andrew Ashworth, as well as George Staple, the retiring director of the Serious Fraud Office.

Booth update

JUST IN case anyone should get the idea that Cherie Booth, QC, is winding down her practice, Leslie Page, senior clerk at her chambers at 4/5 Gray's Inn Square, says that *bookings are already being taken for cases in May and* June. For the next five weeks, *meanwhile*, Ms Booth has cleared her diary; but only of court work. He says: "She is maintaining her advisory work, even though she is not appearing in court in the run-up to the election."

Her career will continue — PM's wife or not.

Billing and cooing

SOME MAY believe that law*yers in America earn more* money than is good for them, but for Marsha Watts, the daughter of a judge and now former associate at Winston & Strawn, a *leading Chicago law* firm, it was not enough.

She has pleaded guilty to a charge of prostitution after running an advertisement offering "companionship" to "discreet, sensitive executives and professional gentlemen" at $310 an hour, a step up from her usual billing rate of $180.

Great promise

HEADS of Chambers and judges are being asked to *donate an annual contribution* to help to fund a scholarship established the memory of Michael Kalisher, QC, the former chairman of the Criminal Bar Association. The scholarship will provide support for students intending to practise at the Bar in England and Wales and who are judged to be of "exceptional promise but modest means".

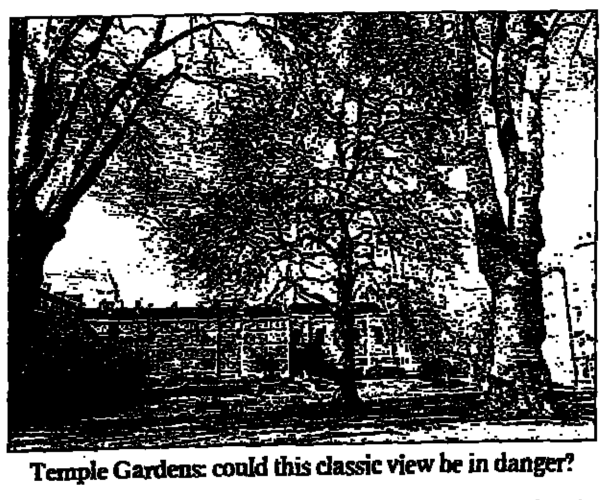
Seeing red

ONE of the positive attributes of courts in the American South is their lack of formality. In the Criminal Bar Association's latest newsletter, David Marshall, the barrister who has represented many *prisoners on Death Row*, notes that during Hallowe'en last year the walls of the court in Texas were "festooned with pumpkins, witches and goblins". The court staff were not wearing costumes.

He says: "Nothing, however, prepared me for the entrance of the judge, a sour, humourless man. Atop his head was a huge red wig. I had no idea how to react, especially when his demeanour indicated that he hadn't the foggiest idea it was there."

SCRIVENOR

A bridge too far for the Temple



Temple Gardens: could this classic view be in danger?

THE legal Establishment has fired the first shot in what could be a bitter battle over government plans for a new bridge over the Thames in the heart of legal London — Temple Gardens. A leading planning QC, George Barlett, says that plans to build the 130-metre bridge would break planning laws and fly in the face of conservation policies for Westminster and London.

He also accuses John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, in "a curious inversion of the normal planning process" of coming out in favour of the scheme before any consultation with planning authorities has taken place.

Writing in *Counsel*, the Bar magazine, Mr Barlett says that "a massive structure across the river with twin 130m towers at Temple Gardens would be in conflict with both national and local planning policies."

The QC also accuses Mr Gummer of making changes to his department's strategic planning guidance for the Thames. The recently issued revised guidance says that "dramatic visual statements and landmark buildings may be appropriate in exceptional cases". Mr Barlett says that it is "insulting" to view the river purely as a development site. The proposed bridge — with twin towers as high as the top of the dome of St Paul's — would dominate the river, the Temple, Somerset House and historic areas beyond.

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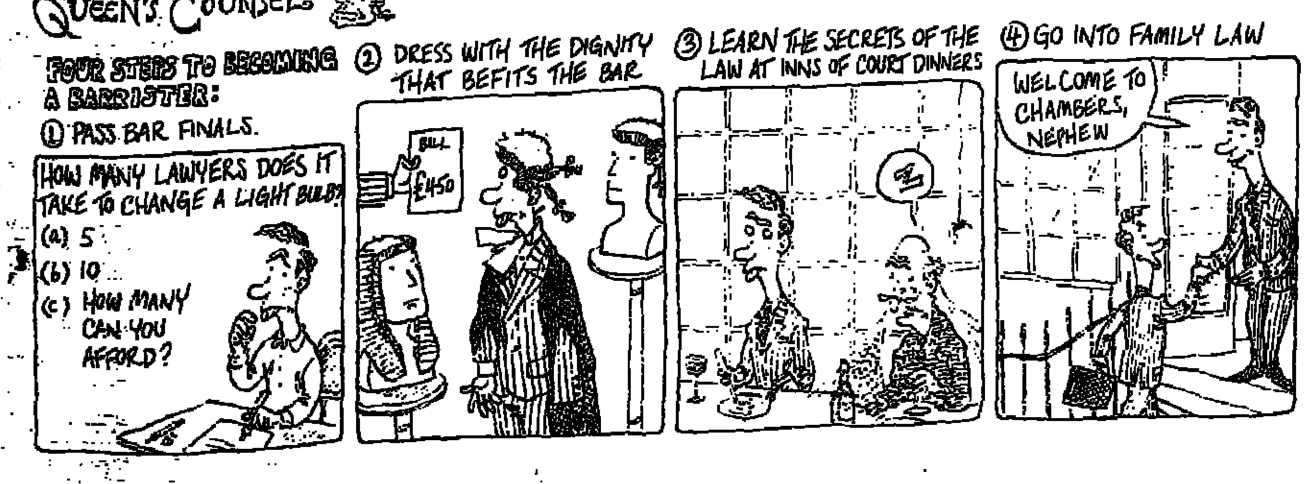

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A pro bono groundswell

Frances Gibb on solicitors who work for no charge

Ethical action: Gregory Peck represents Brock Peters in *To Kill A Mockingbird*

MCA

For Leigh Day it was a coup, some of the best public relations that solicitors have attracted in recent years. When four years of battling to obtain legal aid for a ground-breaking law suit failed, the London firm said it would take on the action, a test case for victims of smoking, anyway. The costs will run to £3 million, which the firm is willing to carry.

If Leigh Day wins, it will recoup the costs, on the "no win, no fee" basis. But the risks are there — and in the meantime, it will not be paid for the work. The work may not be not pure *pro bono*, in the sense of making no charge at all, but it comes close.

On such a scale, the move was bold and unprecedented. Yet much *pro bono publico* (for the public good) work is going on and more is planned. There has been little publicity, but now the first detailed survey of what firms are up to has been carried out by Andrew Boon, the head of Westminster University's law school.

The tradition of providing free public services harks back, he says, to the Middle Ages. But the arrival of the legal aid scheme in 1949 partly relieved lawyers of their obligations. With legal aid under cost controls, solicitors are re-examining what they can do.

The survey looked at 100 firms, ranging from 229-partner outfits to 15-partner firms. Its findings will be published later this year in *Modern Law Review*. Five of the six firms that responded said they did *pro bono* work and gave details. It spanned giving legal advice at law centres and citizens' advice bureaux, handling cases referred by groups such as Liberty, handling Death Row appeals to the Privy Council and giving advice to organisations such as charities. Much of the work in law centres is done by trainees. But senior staff are also involved. One firm estimated it had devoted more than 5,000 hours in the past five years to Death Row appeals.

Much was informal and records kept were patchy. But Mr Boon concludes that "some large firms in the UK have a small but possibly growing commitment" to *pro bono* work.

A smaller survey by Nottinghamshire Law Society throws up the same kind of picture. It found that among older solicitors, up to a tenth of their time is spent *pro bono*, although much of this work involves sitting on boards of charities, schools and clubs.

With the younger solicitors, the work is more likely to be free legal advice given direct to clients.

Now, though, there are initiatives to formalise this *pro bono* patchwork. The Solicitors Pro Bono Group, a national committee representing eight firms and chaired by Tony Willis, a Clifford Chance partner, has been set up and is advertising for its first full-time director. About 100 replies have been received. "The idea," he says, "is to raise the profile of *pro bono* work among solicitors nationwide and turn this into an enduring framework for a coherent programme."

But what of the Law Society? The idea of the Solicitors Pro Bono Group came from Andrew Phillips, solicitor and founder of the Citizenship Foundation. So far, the society has not taken a lead; in 1994 it rejected the idea of imposing a mandatory *pro bono* requirement on the ground that this would help the Government to legal aid. Mr Willis agrees that making the work mandatory would be a "recipe for disaster". But the Law Society has not promoted a culture of *pro bono* work as the American Bar Association has, partly because of the real struggles of many small firms it seeks to represent.

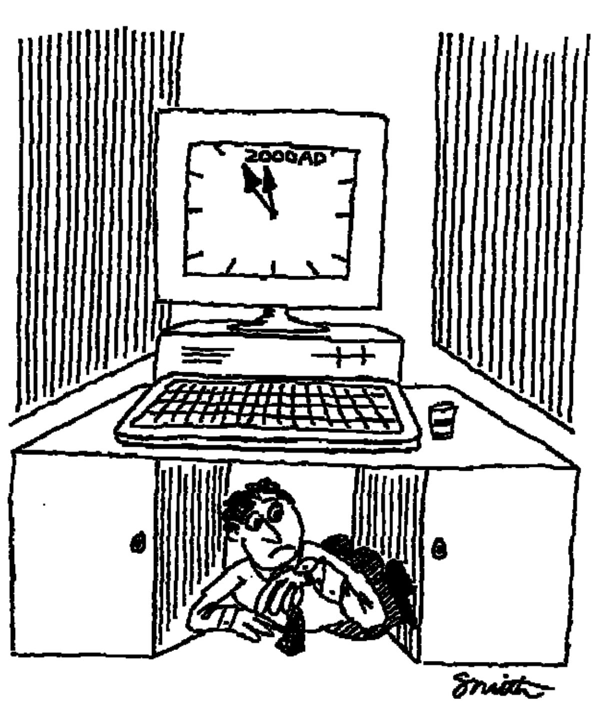
Tony Girling, the President, says: "It is clear from surveys and anecdotal evidence that a great deal of *pro bono* work by solicitors throughout England and Wales has gone unrecognised. We are a caring profession and do not have to be compelled to provide support to those in need." The way forward, he says, is to build on existing work, and the society will give the pro bono group all possible practical support.

Letting people know what is being done so they can find help is now the key aim. There are other initiatives: the London Young Solicitors Group is setting up a register of solicitors in the capital willing to do *pro bono* work, so they can liaise with the Bar Pro Bono Unit (see Law, March 25). Kit Johnson, a student at the College of Law, is seeking to set up a scheme like the Bar's Free Representation Unit, in which law students can give people advice and help in tribunal cases. There are also groups such as the Environmental Law Foundation (0171-404 1030), a network of lawyers, scientists and others who give initial free advice and in some cases action, as well as groups such as Liberty, and Justice, who help with human rights cases.

David Wilson, a partner with the City firm Simmons & Simmons and chairman of the City of London Law Society Pro Bono working party, says: "Historically, lawyers have been retiring about talking about doing work free. But industry is now leading the way about corporate community involvement and solicitors are slowly picking that up."

Adam Taylor suggests millennium-proof measures

How to beat the 2000 clock



Computer users across the globe are at last beginning to face up to the millennium timebomb — the possibility that computers will fail catastrophically in the year 2000 because they cannot cope with the date change. Estimates put the costs of rectifying the problem in the UK at £30 billion and worldwide at £400 billion.

Will the millennium bomb result in a litigation explosion? Certainly, it raises a host of legal issues requiring urgent attention from specialist information technology lawyers. The number one priority is to ensure millennium-compliance, but users who do not take steps now to identify and protect their legal rights may well forfeit their best chance of minimising the costs.

The legal position will vary from case to case: much will depend on the wording of contracts, as well as the age and type of system, but suppliers could be liable to compensate users for the costs of 2000 compliance or the consequences of 2000 failure.

Hardware and software suppliers are probably liable if it was reasonable for the user to expect the system to last beyond 2000. However, there may be contractual hurdles if, for instance, the supplier has slipped in a clause vetoing or limiting his liability. Such cases will probably be subject to a "reasonableness" test whereby the courts will weigh up factors, including the parties' relative bargaining power. Generally, courts do not like such clauses.

Time limits apply, the most common being six years from when equipment was supplied (or possibly upgraded), even if the real loss is not suffered until much later. It could be too late to wait until 2000. Users may need to stop the clock now, either by agreement or by issuing a holding writ.

Before spending vast sums on the problem, those affected must check whether someone else is already obliged to do the work: for instance, under a maintenance contract. If users do not assert their rights, they may be penalised later for not mitigating their losses.

When a company's IT system has been contracted out, the outsourcer may be contractually bound to ensure the smooth running of the system at all times. Users must ensure now that they are not left high and dry at the end of the millennium.

Any new IT contracts must contain a carefully drafted clause guaranteeing that systems will work properly through January 1, 2000. Users should also beware February 29, 2000 meltdown: years divisible by 100 are not leap years whereas those divisible by 400 are. Does the computer know this?

Year 2000 issues affect much more than just IT contracts. For example, companies could be liable to others if they have a millennium crash. It is unlikely that the usual "act of God" clause in commercial contracts would apply, so companies should try to protect themselves when entering into contracts that could be affected by a millennium failure.

Conversely, they should check whether other businesses, such as potential trading partners or takeover targets, have compliance difficulties that could in turn rebound on them. Some companies are rumoured to be trying to dump subsidiaries with year 2000 problems.

As the millennium draws nearer, programmers will be in more and more demand. Companies should tighten employment contracts to deter poaching from their IT departments, bearing in mind that courts will strike down non-competition clauses if they are unreasonably wide.

Company directors could also find themselves being sued if they fail to exercise sufficient diligence in managing the company's affairs. They can no longer plead ignorance of the millennium problem and must not simply assume that the IT director will sort it out.

Computer users and the IT industry should work together to defuse the millennium bomb. Litigation should be a last resort.

● *The author is a partner at Withers solicitors.*

Now for woman power

FIVE WORKSHOPS on practical problems faced by women forging legal careers will form the basis of the 1997 Women Lawyer conference on April 12. Top-level panellists will head the sessions.

The conference, organised by the Bar and the Law Society and sponsored by *The Times*, will cover a range of topics, including "rainmaking" (networking for business), maternity and paternity leave and flexible working.

Peter Goldsmith, QC, the former Bar chairman, is the moderator in a session on "strategies for when things go wrong". Jenny Lindsay, an assistant solicitor, will describe how she took her former employer to an industrial tribunal, won £10,000 and survived — career-wise. She says: "If you are being treated unequally . . . it is important that you believe in yourself and act on that."

On the same panel will be Gill Andrew, an employment law specialist and Christopher Goodchild, an industrial tribunal chairman and an executive member of the European Association of Labour Court Judges.

Pamela Scriven, QC, will speak from the perspective of the professional conduct committee of the Bar Council. The main sessions include a panel with Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, and a keynote address from Roberta Cooper Ramo, immediate past president of the American Bar Association.

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Serving writ outside jurisdiction

Kuwait Oil Tanker Co SAK and Another v Al Bader and Others

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Aldous

[Judgment March 24]

It was a precondition of leave to serve a writ upon a defendant outside the jurisdiction under Order 11, rule 1(1)(c) of the Rules of the Supreme Court that another defendant had already been served within or outside the jurisdiction.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the third defendant, Timothy John Stafford, against the order made on December 19, 1995 by Judge Diamond, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, that the plaintiffs, Kuwait Oil Tanker Co SAK and Sitka Shipping Incorporated, have retrospective leave under Order 2, rule 1 and Order 11, rule 1(1)(c) of the Rules of the Supreme Court to serve a writ upon him outside the jurisdiction; that the purported service of the writ be deemed valid service; and that the third defendant's summons to set aside leave to serve out of the jurisdiction, granted by Mr Justice Cresswell, be dismissed.

In a respondents' notice the plaintiffs sought to uphold the judge's order on the additional ground that the court had jurisdiction under Order 11, rule 1(1)(c) to give leave to serve outside the jurisdiction even though when the application was made, no other defendant had yet been served.

Order 11, rule 1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court provides: "(1) ... service out of the jurisdiction is permissible with the leave of the court if in the action begun by the writ — ... (c) the claim is brought against a person duly served within or out of the jurisdiction is a necessary or proper party thereto;..."

Order 2, rule 1 provides: "(1) Where, in beginning or purporting to begin any proceedings or at any stage in the course of or in connection with any proceedings, there has, by reason of any thing done or left undone, been a failure to comply with the requirements of these rules ... the failure shall be treated as an irregularity and shall not nullify the proceedings, any step taken in the proceedings, or any document, judgment or order therein."

Mr Daniel Gerrans for the third defendant; Mr Julian Malins, QC and Miss Helen Davies for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON, giving judgment on the submissions relating to the respondents' notice, said that on July 21, 1994 Mr Justice Cresswell, inter alia, granted the intended plaintiffs leave to serve the third defendant outside the jurisdiction.

Later the same day the first defendant was served in this country. On or about July 29, 1994 the third defendant was served in Australia. He applied for leave to serve to be set aside on the ground that when leave was given under Order 11, rule 1(1)(c) no other defendant had been served.

The judge held that Order 11, rule 1(1)(c) required a defendant to be served before leave could be granted to serve another defendant outside the jurisdiction, but that he had power retroactively to validate the service and he exercised that power.

The 1993 version of Order 11, rule 1(1)(c) was the relevant one for present purposes.

Before 1983, Order 11, rule 1(1) read: "... service ... out of the jurisdiction is permissible with the leave of the court ... (j) if the action begun by the writ being properly brought against a person duly served within the *jurisdiction*, a person out of the jurisdiction is a necessary or proper party thereto."

Before 1983 it was well recognised that Order 11, rule 1 required one defendant to be served within the jurisdiction before there could be an application for leave to serve another defendant out of the jurisdiction: see *Yorkshire Tannery v Eglinton Chemical* ((1884) 54 LJ Ch 81), *Collins v North British and Mercantile Insurance Co* ([1894] 3 Ch 228) and *Tassell v Hallen* ([1892] 1 QB 321).

Since 1983, Order 11, rule 4 provided: "(1) An application for the grant of leave under rule 1(1) must be supported by an affidavit stating — ... (d) where the application is made under rule 1(1)(c), the grounds for the deponent's belief that there is between the plaintiff and the person on whom a writ has been served a real issue which the plaintiff may reasonably ask the court to try."

It was plain from the wording of the rules that a defendant had to have been served within or out of the jurisdiction before leave could be given to serve outside the jurisdiction. That was a condition of leave being granted.

Dicta of Lord Mustill in *Mercedes-Benz AG v Leiduck* ([1996] AC 284, 293, 296) appeared to allow the possibility that Order 11, rule 1(1)(c) might be effective despite the fact that no other defendant had been served. But with the benefit of further examination of the point which the court in the present case had enjoyed, the rule did not have that effect.

Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Aldous agreed.

Their Lordships heard further submissions in the appeal and gave further judgments.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON *said that it was* necessary to consider the way that the judge exercised his discretion under Order 2, rule 1 retrospectively to cure the irregularity in obtaining leave to serve outside the jurisdiction.

In *Leal v Dunlop Bio-Processes* ([1984] 1 WLR 874) and *Camera Care v Victor Hasselblad* ([1993] 1 WLR 1065), considerable emphasis was placed on the care and caution with which a court should approach an application retrospectively to validate leave purportedly given under Order 11, rule 1, when the requirements for granting leave had not been fulfilled.

Those cases stated that exceptional circumstances were required before there could be retrospective validation.

But his Lordship adopted the test in *Kleinwort Benson v Barbrak* ([1987] 1 AC 597) and *The Goldean Mariner* ([1990] 2 Lloyd's Rep 215, 225) that there should be a good cause or good reason for validation.

The judge in the present case treated the matter with great care. He held that the mistake in seeking leave before the first defendant had been served was a bona fide mistake which was not of great significance and which caused the third defendant no prejudice.

Moreover, it was still open to the plaintiffs to start an action against the third defendant in Australia, and the judge found that it was desirable that the action should proceed against the defendants in the same jurisdiction.

In those circumstances the judge could not be criticised in treating as valid service of the writ upon the third defendant.

Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Aldous agreed.

Solicitors: Brian Harris & Co; Shaw & Croft.

Insurers must pay compensation

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co and Others v Youell and Others

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment March 26]

Insurance cover for sums the assured became liable "to pay as damages to third parties howsoever arising" was to include sums paid as compensation by the operators of luxury cruise ships to passengers whose holiday cruises had had to be abandoned.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing an interlocutory appeal by underwriters, Mr John R. L. Youell being the representative underwriter, from Mr Justice Langley's order on February 15, 1996, giving summary judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court in favour of P & O Steam Navigation Co.

Mr V. V. Veeder, QC and Mr Steven Berry for the underwriters; Mr Nicholas Hamblen for P & O.

LORD JUSTICE POTTER said that P & O operated luxury cruise ships. Its brochure proclaimed the high quality and relaxing nature of the cruises, urging its readers to let the cruise ships "do the moving, letting the world and its wonders unroll around you while you unwind". It promised to "turn a holiday into an unforgettable experience".

For passengers on three cruises in 1991-92 that last promise was indeed fulfilled, but not for the reasons earlier mentioned.

Unhappily during that cruise season three of P & O's ships were involved in mishaps and three cruises had had to be abandoned with the passengers on board.

Not surprisingly, P & O received a large number of complaints and passenger' claims. To avoid a multiplicity of separate claims and to preserve its good name P & O quickly negotiated and agreed compensation packages which were agreed to be in full and final settlement of any passenger claims.

The underwriters took the point that the wording of the P & O cover was not apt to cover the sums paid out in respect of the passenger claims. So far as material the insurance was "... to pay any sum or sums which the assured shall become legally liable whether contractually or otherwise howsoever to pay as damages to third parties howsoever arising and occasioned through any of the assured's activities..."

The underwriters relied on the fact that the policies were liability policies requiring P & O to demonstrate a legal liability in damages in respect of the third party claims sought to be recovered.

They asserted that, however commercially sensible or desirable the compensation packages might have been, the standard terms and conditions on which P & O contracted with passengers were in a form which meant either that P & O were not in breach of contract or duty to the passengers in the events which had occurred, or that P & O's legal liability for damages for any such breach was excluded by the standard terms and conditions on which P & O contracted with passenger.

The forms of conditions were in evidence before the judge. He rejected the underwriters' submission that payments by way of refunds should be characterised as claims for restitution and not for damages and so were outwith the policy wording.

The judge went on to hold that an English court applying English law would have held P & O liable in damages to the passengers notwithstanding the exclusion and limitation clauses in the passenger contracts.

The judge was correct. All that it was necessary for P & O to demonstrate was a liability in damages to the passengers compensated. If such liability existed the form and nature of the compromise designed to avoid and/or satisfy claims in respect of such liability should not be determinative of the question whether or not there was claim under the policy.

It was clear from such cases as *Jarvis v Swan Tours Ltd* ([1973] QB 233 CA) that in contracting to provide a cruise, P & O were not merely undertaking a contract of carriage and the provision of accommodation and food, but were agreeing to provide an enjoyable and relaxing holiday of the kind so lyrically described in the brochure.

P & O were under a legal liability in damages in respect of the passengers' claims. Moreover, the judge was justified in holding that if the matter proceeded to trial then the court would refuse to give effect to those conditions so far as they were exclusionary in their effect. In all the circumstances the judge was justified in the conclusion to which he came.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Mummery agreed.

Solicitors: Clyde & Co; Nabarro Nathanson.

Redistilled liquor is not whisky

Scotch Whisky Association and Others v Glen Kella Distillers Ltd (No 2)

Before Mr Justice Rattee

[Judgment March 24]

A drink made by redistillation of Scotch whisky could not be called "*whiskey*" *since it had not been matured after redistillation* and therefore did not comply with the definition of whisky in article 1(4)(b) of European Council Regulation (EEC No 1576/89) (OJ 1989 L160/1).

The purposes of the regulation included not only the protection of the consumer but also the protection of the reputation of the spirit sold as whisky. Therefore producers of whisky had sufficient locus standi to enforce the provisions of the regulation.

Mr Justice Rattee so ruled in the Chancery Division, giving judgment for the plaintiffs, the Scotch Whisky Association, United Distillers plc and Allied Domecq Spirits and Wine Ltd, and granting an injunction against the defendant, Glen Kella Distillers Ltd, restraining it from describing as "whiskey" a drink made by redistilling blended Scotch whisky.

Mr Simon Thorley, QC and Mr Mark Brealey for the plaintiffs; Miss Joanne Moss and Miss Emily Windsor for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE RATTEE said that each of the second and third plaintiffs made and sold Scotch whisky on a large scale.

The first plaintiff was a trade association whose members included the majority of the makers of the leading brands of Scotch whisky.

The defendant produced and sold, presently only on a small scale and mostly in the Isle of Man as a distinctive souvenir to visitors there, a drink which it called "White whiskey" made by redistilling in the Isle of Man matured blended Scotch whisky bought from whisky producers in Scotland.

The long established process traditionally used to manufacture whisky included sequentially the four stages of saccharification, fermentation, distillation and maturation.

The plaintiffs' complaint about the "whiskey" produced by the defendant was that it had admittedly undergone a further process of redistillation after maturation, which, according to the plaintiffs, significantly altered the organoleptic qualities, in particular colour and flavour, of the whisky.

The redistilled liquid looked like gin, vodka or any other colourless spirit. However expert evidence clearly established that that there were contained in matured whisky certain involatile maturation cogeners which did not pass over into the the redistilled liquid but remained in the container from which the mature whisky was redistilled.

In his Lordship's judgment the liquid sold by the defendant after redistillation could not be said to be the same liquid that had previously been matured as an essential part of the traditional process of making Scotch whisky.

It was clear from the evidence that the process of maturation in wooden casks gave to whisky its traditional golden colour and significant elements of its taste.

His Lordship rejected the defendant's claim that so far as the regulation was concerned the plaintiffs had no locus standi to enforce its provisions and that only government agencies had the right to enforce it.

His Lordship agreed with the view expressed by Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor, in *Scotch Whisky Association v J. D. Vintners Ltd* (unreported, March 6, 1996), an application to strike out parts of a statement of claim alleging that the defendants were selling as whisky a spirit drink which was not of the alcoholic strength required by provisions of the regulation for whisky. The Vice-Chancellor ruled that the regulations were enforceable at the suit of a whisky producer.

A contrary view would produce the irrationality of the provisions dealing with wines being enforceable at the suit of a producer of the relevant product: see *Tattinger SA v Allbev Ltd* ([1993] FSR 641), but not the provisions dealing with spirit drinks.

In his Lordship's judgment the definition of whisky in article 1(4)(b) of the regulation required that the spirit concerned should have undergone a process of maturation for at least three years in wooden casks after its production as a liquid by distillation.

The drink produced by the defendant was not whisky within that definition and to sell it as whisky was in breach of the regulation. Whether it tasted like whisky was not the point, any more than whether it looked like whisky, which it certainly did not.

The essential point was that the regulation required that to be called whisky a liquid must have undergone the long established traditional process of making whisky.

The real risk of damage to the plaintiffs' goodwill from the defendant being allowed to continue calling its product whisky when it was not, was the commencement of an insidious process of erosion of the integrity and reputation or aura of true whisky, which the defendants rightly accepted that it had in the minds of potential consumers.

Once the integrity of the undoubted concept of whisky made in the traditional manner was allowed to be breached it was difficult to see where the line was to be drawn and true whisky producers would see the reputation of whisky increasingly damaged by products less and less like true whisky being called "whiskey".

Accordingly, the continued sale by the defendant of its product as "whiskey" would be in breach of the regulation and constitute passing off.

Solicitors: Willoughby & Partners, Poplar; Hammond Bale.

Winding-up petition inappropriate

In re Amadeus Trading Ltd

Before Mr Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment March 26]

Where there was a complex raft of disputed facts and allegations on both sides which cried out for cross-examination, it was inappropriate for a claimant to resort to a petition to wind up a company which was his adversary.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so held in the Companies Court of the Chancery Division in dismissing a petition presented on July 22, 1996 by Moscow Bank of the Savings Bank of the Russian Federation, for the winding-up of Amadeus Trading Ltd.

Section 30 of the Bills of Exchange Act 1882 provides:

"(2) Every holder of a bill is prima facie assumed to be a holder in due course: but if in an action on a bill it is admitted or proved that the acceptance, issue, or subsequent negotiation of the bill is affected with fraud, duress, or force, or fear, or illegality, the burden of proof is shifted, unless and until the holder proves that, subsequent to the alleged fraud or illegality, value has in good faith *been given fo the bill*."

The judge had previously refused an application by the petitioner for leave to cross-examine Mr Ilia Kletski, the relevant director of Amadeus, on an affidavit sworn by him on August 29, 1996.

Mr Robin Knowles for the petitioner; Mr Nicholas Strauss, QC and Mr Laurence West-Knights for Amadeus.

MR JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER said that the petition was based on a demand in respect of a debt of $11,550,000 alleged to be due to the petitioner, as endorsee of promissory notes payable on January 1 and May 1, 1996.

That one of the directors of A & M Company of Moscow, which was concerned in the complex history of the notes in question, had been guilty of fraud seemed to his Lordship very probable.

Documents had been produced in evidence, bearing dates other than those of their admitted execution, but apparently with the knowledge of the petitioner.

His Lordship had been left with the impression that Mr Kletski might not have told the whole truth, but neither had the petitioner, the principal deponent on whose side had, it seemed, recently left its service under a cloud.

His Lordship had been persuaded, on the totality of the affidavit evidence, that there was here a triable issue, such as would entitle a defendant to resist a *summons under Order 14 of the* Rules of the Supreme Court: see *Powszechny Bank Zwiazkowy W Polsce v Paros* ([1932] 2 KB 353). Accordingly, the petition was dismissed with costs.

Solicitors: Linklaters & Paines; Cawdery Kaye Fireman & Taylor, Hampstead.

Jurisdiction over foreign charity

Gandiya Mission and Others v Kamalaksha DAS Brahmachary

Before Mr David Oliver, QC

[Judgment March 14]

A charitable institution which had been established in a foreign jurisdiction but which operated wholly or in part in this country, was a charity for the purposes of sections 33(2), (8) and 96(1) of the Charities Act 1993 and the court could entertain charitable proceedings in respect of that institution only if the consent of the Charity Commissioners had been sought.

Mr David Oliver, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division, so held in a reserved judgment in which he ordered, inter alia, that the Attorney-General be added as a party to the proceedings and that the plaintiffs have leave pursuant to section 33(5) of the 1993 Act to take and continue the proceedings.

Mr Rudolf Russell for the plaintiffs; Mr Ram Yajnik for the defendant; Mr William Henderson for the Attorney-General.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the Gaudiya Mission, a religious association incorporated and registered in India, operated throughout India and in London. It had charitable status in India, and, had it been incorporated under English law, it would have been a charity for the purposes of the Charities Act 1993. The proceedings related to the conduct of certain aspects of the mission's affairs within the jurisdiction.

The plaintiffs had not sought the consent of the Charity Commissioners before taking the proceedings, and had not joined the Attorney-General as a party. The defendant had contended that in those circumstances, the court had no jurisdiction to entertain the proceedings by the operation of section 33(2) of the Act.

Mr Henderson submitted that although they were probably charity proceedings within the meaning of section 33(8) of the Act, they fell under the second limb and were therefore brought under the court's jurisdiction with respect to trusts; and that accordingly they did not fall within section 33(2) and the consent of the commissioners was not necessary.

Relying on section 96(1), he said that the court's jurisdiction with regard to charities did not extend to foreign charities.

His Lordship considered the definition of "charity" in the Charities Act 1960 and the Charitable Trusts Acts 1853-1939, from which the 1993 Act derived.

He said that he had not found the terms of the current legislation or its historical antecedents of any assistance in resolving the problem before him, since the they left open the question as to whether the court's charitable jurisdiction extended to foreign charities operating in this jurisdiction.

Moreover, the authority in that area was sparse and in the main unhelpful.

His Lordship had derived most assistance from the judgment of Sir Raymond Evershed, Master of the Rolls, in *Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation Inc v Inland Revenue Commissioners* ([1954] 1 Ch 672).

However, in that case, the Master of the Rolls had confined his analysis to the position of a body regulated according to the laws of a foreign country and carrying on its activities exclusively within that country.

In his Lordship's judgment, rather different considerations applied when a foreign institution was carrying on all or part of its activities in this country pursuant to objects which were by the law of this country properly to be regarded as charitable.

In such a case, his Lordship could see no reason in principle why the existence of the jurisdiction to supervise charitable activities accorded to the court, the commissioners and the Attorney-General should be excluded.

In reaching that view, his Lordship had regard to the dissenting judgment of Lord Justice Russell in *Construction Industry Training Board v Attorney-General* ([1973] 1 Ch 173), which indicated that the phraseology used in the charities legislation of which the 1993 Act was a successor, was not directed towards territorial limitation of the jurisdiction as to charities; and also to the consideration that, if Mr Henderson was right, all that those who wished to avoid the supervision of the courts and existing legislation need do would be to establish their charitable foundation in some less assiduous foreign jurisdiction and conduct part only of its operations here.

In his Lordship's judgment, the mission was a charity for the purposes of section 33(2) of the 1993 Act and the proceedings charitable proceedings within the first limb of section 33(8) of that Act.

Solicitors: Param & Co, The Hyde; Markand & Co, Homerton; Treasury Solicitor.

Limit to court's passport surrender power

B v B (Passport surrender: Jurisdiction)

Before Mr Justice Wilson

[Judgment March 10]

The power to detain a foreign national judgment debtor in the United Kingdom by ordering him to surrender his passport under either statutory or the inherent jurisdiction, was only available as an aid to the court's established procedures for enforcement of the judgment.

It was not available as a free standing enforcement procedure in its own right.

Mr Justice Wilson so held in the Family Division in a judgment delivered in chambers and reported with his Lordship's consent, when dismissing an application by the wife for an injunction requiring the husband to surrender his passport so as to restrain him from leaving the country until he had paid the sum owing to her under a costs order dated October 4, 1995.

Mr Nicholas Mostyn for the wife; Lord Phillimore for the husband.

MR JUSTICE WILSON said that there had been a welter of acrimonious matrimonial litigation between the foreign national parties in a variety of jurisdictions.

The present issue concerned a High Court order which provided that the husband should pay the wife's costs of some of that litigation. To date the husband had totally failed to comply.

When he returned briefly to the United Kingdom the wife successfully applied for an ex parte order that, as a judgment debtor, he should attend for an oral examination of his means under Order 48 of the Rules of the Supreme Court and that he should surrender his passport to the tipstaff.

At the subsequent hearing, despite his protestations to the contrary, the husband was found to have ample assets, albeit not in the United Kingdom, to pay the judgment debt.

The issue then arose as to what steps the wife could take to enforce the original order.

There was no statutory power to commit the husband to prison nor to impose the restraint by writ ne exeat regno, which was only available before final judgment and where the defendant's absence would materially affect the plaintiff's case.

The wife contended that there was, however, power under section 37(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 to make an order granting an injunction "... in all cases in which it appears to the court to be just and convenient to do so."

While it was clear from case law that section 37(1) of the 1981 Act enabled the court to restrain a party from leaving the jurisdiction, in cases other than those involving children that power had been used in aid of court proceedures leading to disposal of the proceedings, such as an *Anton Piller* order, an imminent judgment summons hearing or a pending oral examination as here, on the principle that the established proceedures for judgment enforcement should not be frustrated by a party's absence.

However, what was being sought was an order keeping the husband in England indefinitely as a free standing judgment debt enforcement procedure in its own right.

The recent Court of Appeal decision in *In re B (Child abduction: Wardship: Power to detain)* ([1994] 2 FLR 479) confirmed that the section 37(1) jurisdiction was ancillary to the court's other powers: here none was available and so there was no power to order the surrender of the husband's passport to keep him in the United Kingdom indefinitely until he complied with a court order for costs.

Solicitors: Collyer-Bristow; S. Merali & Co.

Sentence for breaking prison

Regina v Coughtrey

Breaking prison was a serious offence for which a substantial prison sentence was always to be expected. Where the offender was serving a determinate sentence at the time of the escape, a consecutive sentence should almost invariably be imposed; but if he was serving a life sentence, the sentence for breaking prison would have to be served concurrently. Nevertheless its length should usually be the same as if the offender had been serving a determinate sentence.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice McCowan, Mr Justice Ian Kennedy and Sir Neil Denison, QC, Common Serjeant of London) so held on February 19, when allowing an appeal against a seven-year sentence for breaking prison imposed by Judge Pontius at Knightsbridge Crown Court on March 28, 1996 to run concurrently with a sentence of life imprisonment.

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN said that factors to be taken into account in determining length of sentence would include: the nature and circumstances of the crime for which the appellant was in prison; his conduct while in prison; the methods employed in effecting escape, and in particular whether any violence was used, extensive planning and outside assistance; whether he surrendered himself and how soon; and a plea of guilty.

In the circumstances, their Lordships concluded that seven years was excessive and four years was substituted.

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CHANGING TIMES

Deciding whether operation is an undertaking for transfer

Betts and Others v Brintel Helicopters Ltd (trading as British International Helicopters) and Another

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Auld and Sir Roger Parker

[Judgment March 26]

In deciding whether an operation was an undertaking for the purposes of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (SI 1981 No 1794), the court had to look beyond the activity entrusted to it. In most cases there would be land, buildings, plant, staff and order books all contributing to the undertaking.

Where the labour force was not the only asset of the operation and the vast majority of its assets were retained, it could not be said that the undertaking was transferred so that it retained its identity in the hands of a transferee.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when allowing an appeal by KLM Era Helicopters (UK) Ltd, the second defendants, from a decision of Mr Justice Scott Baker who on July 28, 1995 had granted declarations to the plaintiffs Nicholas Betts, Clive Elliston, Janice McMillan, Wendy Miller, John Carver, Michael Parker and John Rayer, but had dismissed their application for an injunction.

Prior to June 30, 1995 Brintel Helicopters Ltd contracted with Shell (UK) Ltd to provide helicopter services from Aberdeen, Sumburgh and Beccles. The plaintiffs were employed at Beccles.

When new contracts were awarded the southern sector contract went to KLM who moved operations from Beccles to Norwich. KLM did not take over staff or equipment from Brintel. Some Brintel staff were redeployed but not Mr Betts and others.

At Beccles, Brintel had 25 helicopters servicing all three contracts. Routine maintenance was done there but larger jobs were done at Aberdeen.

At Norwich, KLM used different helicopters and had fire service, security and other services which at Beccles Brintel provided for themselves.

Mr Christopher Carr, QC and Mr Andrew Clarke for KLM; Mr James Goudie QC and Mr Timothy Pitt-Payne for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that it was the plaintiffs' contention before the trial judge that when Brintel's Beccles contract came to an end and the KLM Norwich contract began there was a transfer of undertaking for the purposes of the 1981 Regulations and in consequence they were each entitled to a declaration that as from July 1, 1995 by operation of law they became employees of KLM.

KLM's contention, in the Court of Appeal and below, was that the regulations did not apply to the facts of the case.

The legislation

The 1981 Regulations were made by the secretary of state under section 2 of the European Communities Act 1972 to give effect to Council Directive 77/187/EEC (OJ 1977 L61/26).

The overall purpose of the directive was to safeguard the rights of employees. The relevant regulations were 2, 3, 5 and 8.

The general effect of the regulations was that where company A sold its business to company B two things happened: first, A's employees by operation of law became B's employees on the same terms, and second, any dismissal of an employee would be deemed unfair if the transfer or a reason connected with it was the reason or principal reason for his dismissal. The employee could seek relief before an industrial tribunal.

Mr Carr's principal submission was that the present situation was not one to which the regulations applied.

There was no sale of a business by Brintel to KLM, KLM acquired no assets previously belonging to Brintel unless, as Mr Goudie contended, the right to land on Shell oil rigs and to use their facilities could be regarded as an asset, and certainly KLM, as a matter of policy, did not employ anyone who had previously been employed by Brintel.

Prior to June 30, 1995 was Brintel's Beccles operation an undertaking or part of an undertaking for the purposes of regulation 3(1)? If so, was that undertaking transferred so that it retained its identity in the hands of KLM?

Mr Carr contended that in the light of authorities, including *Süzen v Zehnacker Gebäudereinigung GmbH Krankenhausservice* (Case C-13/95) (*The Times* March 26) it was now clear that the judge was wrong to decide as he did.

Authorities

The court was referred to *Spijkers* ([1986] ECR 1119), the starting point of judicial jurisprudence on the present branch of the law; *Kenny v South Manchester College* ([1993] ICR 934); *Mrs Schmidt* ([1994] IRLR 302); *Dines v Initial Services* ([1985] ICR 11); *Kelman v Care Contract Services* ([1995] ICR 260); *Rygaard* ([1996] IRLR 51), which was given after Mr Justice Scott Baker gave judgment; *BSG Property Services v Tuck* ([1996] IRLR 134); *Merckx v Ford Motor Company* ([1996] IRLR 467) and *Süzen*.

Appellant's submissions

Mr Carr submitted that, in the light of *Süzen*, the search for an economic entity, or an undertaking, could not be reduced to a search for the activity entrusted to it.

In most cases, as in the present case, there would be land, buildings, plant, staff and order books all contributing to the undertaking. How should the entity be defined?

In his Lordship's judgment, Mr Carr was right to say that it consisted of the helicopters and infrastructure, the landing strip, premises and buildings at Beccles, and the staff.

His Lordship would add to that the maintenance and support staff at Aberdeen, the contract between Shell and Brintel for the carrying of men and goods to oil rigs, and the right pursuant to that contract to land helicopters on oil rigs and use their facilities.

Mr Carr submitted there was minimal evidence as to whether the undertaking or economic activity was transferred so that it retained its identity in the hands of KLM.

At risk of over-simplification, the labour force was not the only asset of the Brintel Beccles operation, and the vast majority of its assets Brintel retained, so the situation was precisely that envisaged in *Süzen*.

Respondents' submissions

Prior to *Süzen* the authorities showed that in order to discover what constituted an economical entity it was necessary to look at what was done. If after the alleged transfer, activities were substantially the same then it could be concluded that the undertaking had been transferred so that it retained its identity in the hands of the transferee.

Conclusion

His Lordship accepted that the decision in *Süzen* represented a shift of emphasis, or at least a clarification of the law, and that some of the reasoning of earlier decisions, if not the decisions themselves, might have to be reconsidered.

With the benefit of *Süzen*, which was unavailable to the trial judge, his Lordship was satisfied that the proper approach to the case was to consider first the nature of Brintel's Beccles operation.

For the reasons given, his Lordship accepted there was an undertaking or economic activity.

As to the second issue, in his Lordship's judgment, there was no transfer of the undertaking so that it retained its identity in the hands of KLM. The appeal would be allowed.

Lord Justice Auld and Sir Roger Parker agreed.

Solicitors: Charles Russell; Brian Thompson & Partners, Bloomsbury.

هكذا من الأصل

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on *the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend.* Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,769.80	Allied Domecq	459	+12	6.4	13.9
319.40	Bulmer (HP)	605	-16½	2.8	18.0
36.50	Burn Stewart	61½	-3	7.1	14.9
137.40	Glenmorangie A	1010	...	1.5	27.5
10,320.80	Grand Met	491	-3½	4.0	15.9
9,786.80	Guinness	514½	+13	4.0	14.3
464.60	Highland Dist	348½	+1	3.0	16.8
383.50	Matthew Clark	320	+4½	9.4	15.3
8.85	Merrydown W	90½	-3½	6.4	12.2
5,686.40	SA Breweries	1931¼	-12½	1.8	

BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
12,736.50	ABN-AMRO	4200	+47½	2.8	17.7
10,482.10	Abbey Nat†	745	+26½	4.4	13.2
2,789.30	Allied Irish	414½	+4	4.4	..
5,779.80	Aus New Z	387¼	-1¾	4.9	
27,333.30	Bank America	6703½	-269¾	...	
3,856.40	Bank Scotland	330¼	+5	2.8	11.8
15,478.45	Barclays†	1021	-11½	3.9	10.3
2,912.80	Bk of Ireland	605½	+3½	3.4	13.7
33,737.80	Citicorp	8971¼	-353¼		
7,803.50	Commerzbk	1731¼	+16½	2.5	..
21,707.40	Dai Ichi Kan Y	687½	-21½	0.6	..
17,080.80	Deutsche Bk	3416½	+103¾	1.9	..
190.30	Espirito Santo	890½	-18¾	3.8	12.6
21,743.30	Fuji Bank Y	750½	-19½	0.6	
13,012.70	HSBC†	1494	+19	3.4	12.9
25,736.70	HSBC Hk†	1437	+15½	3.6	12.5
503.10	Irish Perm†	585	-10	2.8	
29,758.20	Lloyds TSB†	499½	+23	3.3	16.7
11,440.70	Nat Aus Bk	774¼	+4	5.3	10.4
11,732.30	Nat West†	686½		5.3	10.3
4,403.40	Ryl Bk Scot	537	+7	4.3	11.9
8,291.60	Stand Chart†	843½	+16	2.1	15.1
16,061.10	Wells Fargo	£164¾		1.9	
6,745.50	Westpac	356	+5¼	3.8	11.5

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
7,218.50	Bass	814½	+7	3.8	16.1
14.90	Brit for the Bdr	56½	-7	3.9	15.4
39.30	Burtonwd Brw	184	-2½	3.8	16.5
292.10	City Centre Rest	150½		1.9	28.4
2,088.90	Compass Gp†	657¼	-20½	1.6	26.0
59.00	Eldridge P 'A'	278½	-½	2.4	17.1
66.10	Fuller Sm 'A'	482½		2.4	16.1
1,605.00	Greenalls Grp	543½	+29½	3.5	17.7
432.00	Greene King	714	-3½	2.8	17.6
28.30	Grosvenor Inns†	199	-5	3.8	19.2
47.20	Groupe Chez Ger	262½	+3½	1.4	24.7
56.10	Hardy Hansn	280½	-3	4.7	12.7
79.00	Holt J	2725	-25	2.6	14.7
54.10	Inn Business†	71½	-1½	2.7	
229.80	Mansfield	353	-1	2.2	18.2
256.60	Mrston Thmp	283½		3.3	10.6
196.20	Morland	607½	+2½	2.8	16.0
4.22	Paramount	35½	-1		
479.30	PizzaExpress†	724½	+19	0.5	47.6
39.30	Ramsdens (H)	422½	-5	1.5	
287.60	Regent Inns†	323½	+19	1.0	30.9
4,174.00	Scot & New	676½		3.7	20.5
371.70	Vaux Group	262½	-7	5.0	12.5
460.80	Wetherspoon JD†	1187½	+3½	1.0	26.5
3,865.00	Whitbread	792	+18½	3.5	16.1
450.90	Wolvrhmptn D	668	-4½	3.2	14.7
204.70	Yates Bros	491		1.0	31.8
16.00	Young 'A'	620		3.1	24.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5.43	AAF Inds	23½	+2		
79.40	Abbey	205		3.4	21.0
118.60	Allen	299½	+1	2.9	18.3
284.90	Amec	139½	+14½	3.6	
140.50	Amey	486	+7	2.0	30.7
78.10	Andrews Sykes	535	+41½	1.2	11.6
379.50	Ashtead†	275	-8½	1.4	24.8
21.10	Avonside	48½	+4	2.6	12.3
4.15	Bailey (Ben) Con	99½	+4½	4.2	
49.30	Bandt	35		3.9	21.9
32.00	Barcom	58	-3	2.5	33.9
620.30	Barratt Devs	267½	+5	4.1	14.7
507.20	Beazer	180½	-3½	4.3	13.8
348.20	Bellway	333½	-1½	3.1	16.9
8.79	Bellwinch	19½	-1	..	12.9
726.10	Berkeley Gp	722½	-22½	1.4	18.1
22.90	Bett Bros	152½	-6½	4.6	4.6
71.50	Boot (Henry)	265		3.6	11.1
21.40	Brandon Hire	94	-1½	3.7	
6.84	Britannia Grp	30	+½	6.7	
7.11	Br Bldg & Eng	63½	-1		
386.50	Bryant†	137½	+2½	4.6	19.2
48.50	CALA†	112½	-3	3.9	14.8
6.01	Campbell & Arm	5¼	-½		
9.66	Clarke T	78½		8.1	12.8
95.30	Costain#	46			
63.40	Countryside†	83	-6	3.4	24.5
86.80	Crest Nicholson†	87½	+½	3.6	18.5
15.40	Cussins	86½		6.1	
16.90	Ere Group†	172½	..	1.1	
17.30	Galliford†	19½		6.4	21.3
94.60	Gleeson (MJ)	927½		2.2	16.7
4.16	Green (Ernst)†	54	-½	6.9	17.1
81.60	Havelock Euro	291½	-2½	1.7	22.0
367.70	Hewden-Stuart	132½	-5	2.9	17.4
4.62	Howard Hldgs	17½		5.7	18.7
192.90	Jarvis	224	-16	0.9	
121.20	Keller	216½	+14	2.7	
69.50	Kier	219½	+13½	3.7	13.1
156.90	Laing (J)	341	+8½	3.6	
50.40	Laing 6.4% Cv Pft	125½	+2¾	6.4	
4.38	Lovell (YJ)	11	+¼		
50.80	Manders (A)†	202½	-5	3.6	14.9
118.40	McAlpine (A)	162	+4½	5.5	15.8
111.60	McCarthy & S	112½	-½	2.6	16.6
15.10	McInerney	68			
68.80	Morgan Sindall†	206½	-4	2.5	15.7
189.90	Morrison Cons	283	-2½	2.1	21.9
202.60	Mowlem (J)†	115	-10	3.3	13.1
412.80	Persimmon†	295½	-13½	5.0	15.5
22.90	Pochin†	310	-7½	2.8	11.5
110.50	Prowting	141½	-½	3.4	47.0
33.40	Raine Ind	17¾	+¾		13.9
350.40	Redrow†	157	-7	2.7	16.0
32.80	Sherif Hldgs	293		3.1	16.6
3.70	Shorco	56	+4½	9.4	7.5
48.90	Spender	335	-½	1.2	..
69.90	Swan Hill	90½	-2½	3.5	
40.40	Tay Homes†	138½	-7¼	6.5	30.0
732.30	Taylor Woodrw	186	+9	2.6	18.1
212.10	Tilbury Douglst	627½	+24½	4.6	
13.00	Try Group	18½	-½		11.2
30.30	Vibroplant	65½	-½	7.7	
80.40	Wainhomes	128½	+½	4.4	
30.20	Ward Hldgs	57½			
229.60	Westbury	254½	-4	3.0	22.3
54.30	Wiggins	10			41.1
317.40	Wilson (C)†	160	-5	3.8	..
298.90	Wilson Bowdn	533	-3½	2.6	16.0
539.00	Wimpey GI	145	+3	4.7	45.8

BUILDING MATERIALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,702.30	BPB	334½	-4½	3.7	16.1
42.00	Baggeridge Brk	102½	-1	3.8	25.2
231.70	Bardon	40½	+4	6.4	17.0
9.84	Blockleys	39½	+1		
3,078.40	Blue Circle	416	+3½	4.1	17.3
23.70	Breedon PLC	83½	+2	7.5	
23.90	Br Dredging	136½	-1	5.1	15.7
2,156.90	CRH	600	-9	1.8	
2.85	Cakebread Rby	47½		8.2	
91.00	Caper	167½	-2	4.5	
1,506.50	Caradon	250½	-5	4.9	12.0
131.30	Caradon pf	128½	+2	7.3	
5.16	Chelton Gp†	60	+3½	6.2	8.3
4.06	Dyson (J&J)	146		2.5	14.5
17.50	Dyson 'A'	138		4.9	7.6
6.82	Emstone	3½			
57.90	Epwin	265	-9½	4.3	16.8
26.80	Fine	124½	+4½		13.8
1.62	Gibbs & Dandy	95½		5.0	
184.40	Graham Grp	132	-2	5.6	
104.50	Halstead (J)	340½		3.4	14.5
1,861.90	Hanson	286	-16½	5.2	
619.30	Hepworth	253	-10½	7.6	13.8
12.00	Hewden†	73½		4.4	14.7
259.80	Heyvd Wiml	258½	-½	6.7	10.7
330.20	Ibstock	69		3.7	
56.00	Johnston	523½		2.9	..
22.60	Lilleshall†	79½		7.6	13.6
425.50	Marley	126	+2	5.1	13.1
156.70	Marshalls†	126	-½	5.2	13.5
530.60	Meyer Intl	417½	+7	3.4	37.2
222.10	Newman Tnks†	173½		5.3	
138.10	Norcros	79	+½	1.6	
15.00	Phoenix Timber	22½	+2½	1.7	51.0
1,243.40	Pilkington	120	-15½	6.2	19.4
380.30	Polypipe†	242	+1½	1.6	18.8
2,521.40	RMC Gp	973½	+10	3.3	15.5
1,874.20	Redland	360	-2½	6.0	17.2
13.40	Rhoket	75	-3	8.0	
52.50	Ruberoid	109	-½	7.3	
703.40	Rugby Group	109½	-4½	4.2	18.2
24.80	Russell (A)	102½		3.3	
364.50	SIG	319½	+29½	2.9	15.0
5.33	SMP	2½			
51.30	Sharpe & Fisher	237½	+7½	3.1	
59.00	Spring Ram	13	-2½		
112.50	Streamline Hldgs	187½		5.3	12.3
910.10	Tarmac	98	+4	7.0	
15.20	Teco	138		4.5	12.7
585.10	Travis Perkins	487½	-37½	2.6	19.4
5.72	Tudor	51½	+4	5.0	
2,791.70	Wolseley	491½	+1½	2.7	16.2

CHEMICALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
488.10	Albright & Wil	156	+9	6.7	11.2
860.50	Allied Colloids	125	+¼	2.9	22.3
20.00	Amber Ind	127½		5.6	10.8
61.10	Amberley Gp	100½	-1	1.9	19.8
15.10	[illegible]	1½			7.0
14,319.40	BASF DM	2316¼	-25	2.8	
4,627.00	BOC	956	-12½	3.8	16.5
452.20	BTP	270	-6½	5.3	14.2
18,488.10	Bayer DM50	2553¼	+62½	2.1	
64.60	Brent Chems†	95½	-½	4.2	
463.90	Br Vita†	210	+5	4.9	12.6
133.80	Brunner Mond†	175½	-5	6.0	9.9
96.60	Canning (W)	301½	-4½	3.6	..
94.20	City Technology	193½	-7	0.9	20.3
1,467.80	Courtaulds	361	-½	5.6	18.7
417.60	Croda	310	+6½	4.1	12.8
59.50	Doeflex	290	-4½	3.1	14.5
288.80	Ellis & Everard†	303½	-7½	3.9	14.2
25.40	Euro Colour	55½	-½	5.1	10.9
9.08	Gibbon	86½		10.1	7.1
117.00	Hickson	66½	-½	..	16.3
14,536.00	Hoechst	2471½	+28½	1.9	..
145.90	Holliday Chem†	139		4.7	
5,056.60	ICI	696½	-16½	5.7	20.5
326.10	Inspec†	187	-1½	4.2	10.3
447.33	Kalon†	126		5.2	20.6
1,364.40	Laporte	704	-7½	4.4	14.7
68.40	Manders†	171½	+9	8.4	
26.70	Mercian	72	-17	3.7	..
7.23	Metrotect	30		2.9	19.2
25.20	Porvair	295	-8½	2.4	27.8
526.80	Scapa	219½	+1	3.9	11.9
36.10	Sutcliffe Speak	24	+1	5.0	7.9
11,239.00	Takeda Chem	1285	-10½	0.5	23.0
53.00	Wolsthme R	662½	+15	4.9	...
187.20	Yorks Grp†	234	+16½	4.9	..
376.30	Yule Catto	370	..	2.8	17.4

DISTRIBUTORS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
57.50	Albion Cp Sph	178½	-13		21.8
13.80	Allen & Hanby	320	+2½	8.0	5.3
3.83	Alexanders†	9½	-½	1.3	
39.60	Appleyard	89½	-6½	13.0	6.8
7.83	Ass Br Eng	3½		2.5	..
138.30	BSS Group	520		4.9	15.2
5.74	Beaming Fennt	16		..	
2.29	Bogod A	39½		1.5	11.1
282.10	Bemrose†	625	+10	3.3	
6.05	Brigend Gp	22	-2	1.1	
27.40	Brit Fittings	115	+5½	4.1	
10.98	Caffyns	305		4.7	12.6
53.80	Car Group	172½	+3½	2.8	16.8
34.60	Cavendish	130	-1½	3.3	8.5
31.80	Charles Sidney	76½	-3½	7.1	
22.60	Cook (DC)	54½	-1½	5.2	6.4
24.08	Cog Motors	104½	-1	9.2	7.4
23.40	Dawson El	126½		2.7	14.2
186.20	Dickens	351	-3	5.2	13.0
1,706.50	Electrocmpnts	400½	-17	2.2	24.3
100.70	Eurodis Elect	171½	-15	3.6	24.4
65.40	Eurodollar	133½	-4½	5.6	13.6
48.10	European Mtr	88½	+4	7.4	9.1
79.60	Evans Halshaw	245	-2½	8.8	..
7.83	Fife Indmar	50½		8.2	7.6
234.10	Finelist Grp▼	352½	-4	2.1	17.9
32.70	Gordon†	30½	-2½	3.9	11.5
19.90	Glenchewton	66	-7	2.6	12.7
8.63	Gowrings†	97		3.9	
29.70	Hamlet	99½	+½	7.8	9.0
27.80	Harris (Philip)	250	-5½	4.4	15.2
195.60	Headlam	318½		2.3	26.4
6.01	Holders Tech	154	+5	5.4	
95.90	ISA Intl	235	+6½	1.5	
1,385.50	Inchcape	262	+19½	5.1	14.9
5.67	Jacks (Wm)	52½		4.8	18.1
406.60	Kwik-Fit	230½	-10½	3.1	16.3
382.90	Lex Service†	336½	-4½	5.9	11.1
34.70	Lookers†	104	+½	9.6	7.0
20.40	Mdlays Grp†	12½	-½	6.6	
60.00	Middleser	7½	+½	1.3	11.4
18.40	Minstures	35	-2	0.9	
27.90	Norman	286	+6½	3.8	7.4
50.10	Northamber	147	+11	1.2	8.8
238.60	Parco▼	330	-4	3.0	
146.90	Pendragon	379½	-11	3.3	
53.40	Perry Gp	208½	-2	6.5	
1,262.90	Premier Farnell	466	-27½	3.1	18.1
32.60	Quicks Group	140½	-1½	6.4	
28.70	REA	315		1.6	37.8
3.98	Reece	2½			
18.40	Ronson	20½	-1	9.1	7.1
4.43	Ross Gp	3			
26.00	Ryland†	91½	+1½	5.5	16.4
24.60	SEP Indl†	27½		8.0	7.4
15.50	Salfire	60		2.1	19.4
210.80	Time Products	389	-16½	3.5	15.9
27.70	UMECO	241	+8	2.5	17.3
189.90	Vardy (Reg)	335½		3.6	14.6
89.80	WF Elect†	615	+3	2.7	22.3
33.90	Walsh	36½	-½	2.9	10.7
104.60	Wyko†	150½	-2	2.2	17.6
30.30	Young (H)	136½	-1	3.8	11.8

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
573.60	Antofagasta	365	-40	1.8	.
235.60	Ascot Hldgs	292	-15	2.2	
16,306.40	Broken Hill	815¼	-31	3.0	18.5
10,724.00	BTR†	266½	+8½	4.5	14.6
16,094.20	BAT†	518½	+29½	6.3	11.0
295.40	Bibby (J)	189	+7½	5.0	11.0
1,524.50	Buerley Inv	57	+½	8.1	9.6
703.40	Charter†	797½	+30½	4.6	11.3
1,615.80	Cookson†	235½		4.6	17.1
25.00	Cosalt†	203½	-1	6.0	9.9
240.60	DCC	297½	-12½	2.9	11.8
137.80	Grampian Hdg	123½	+1	6.3	12.7
916.80	Harrison Crsfld	128½	+2	9.1	11.4
16,734.00	Hutch Whamp	462½	+24½	2.2	19.2
2,175.20	Imperial Tobacco	417½	-4	6.0	8.4
2,589.80	Jardine Math	360½	-5	4.3	
1,143.50	Lonrho†	146	-1½	4.1	13.2
103.10	McLeod Russel	166	-½	5.0	13.5
377.10	Powell Duffryn	437½	+2½	7.1	17.2
33.90	Ropner	145		7.1	12.5
213.00	Staveley	183½	+1	6.3	13.1
4,690.80	Swire Pacific	483¼	+23½	2.7	17.8
584.00	TT Group	355	+5½	2.7	15.4
3,250.90	Tomkins†	272½	+3	4.7	13.6
37.40	Umdare	192½	-12½	9.4	
112.30	Wardle Storeys	438½	-1½	5.4	16.2
681.20	Wassall	349	+1½	2.2	21.1
67.10	Whitecroft	151½	-3	4.1	12.1
1,916.40	Williams Hldg	329½	-4	5.7	13.6

ELECTRICITY

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,578.50	Br Energy P/P	127½	-5½	7.6	
1,329.30	East Midlands	670		5.9	9.9
2,661.90	Energy Group	509	+42½	5.2	9.8
1,232.50	London Elec	705½	+1	7.3	10.8
3,592.90	National Grid	209½	-2	6.6	6.4
5,896.40	National Power	485½	+14½	6.1	9.2
660.80	Northern Elec	651		8.4	5.9
514.20	Nthn Ireland†	366½	-9½	6.7	5.7
3,777.40	PowerGen	593	+6½	4.7	6.9
1,404.30	Hydro-Elect	361	+3	5.6	9.2
4,157.20	Scottish Power	353½	+13	5.8	10.6
1,857.80	Southern Elec	388½	-25½	7.5	8.4
1,466.90	Yorkshire Elec	922	+16	5.8	12.2

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
98.00	Acal	487½	-4	2.3	16.0
198.70	Acorn Comp	330½	+3		
245.70	Admiral†	390	+4	0.8	.
236.40	Amstrad†	200	+10½	1.7	
116.20	Anite Grp	49	+4		
34.60	Arlen	46½		2.4	11.3
487.60	Astec	158	+6	1.4	18.3
180.20	Azlan	507½	-22½	1.0	16.2
1,130.00	BICC	258½	+3	6.0	
16.20	Bowls Hunter†	152½		8.8	7.3
109.60	Bock†	353½		5.0	9.5
752.90	Bowthorpe	386½	+½	3.3	15.2
3.02	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	11½	+1½	4.9	4.7
21.90	CML Micro	137½	+5	5.5	31.3
31.30	Chmnel Hldgs	35	+½	4.9	13.5
84.90	Chloride	35	-¼	1.8	18.0
13.80	Clayhithe	67½		6.4	7.9
101.40	Crickley	690	-37½	2.3	17.8
1,150.50	Danka Bs Syst	507½	-2½	0.6	31.7
534.40	Delta†	356½	+7	5.6	19.7
65.80	Domino†	335	-1	4.1	15.6
123.90	Dowding Mills	81½		4.5	16.7
70.00	Druck	225	-10	0.9	25.0
2,753.40	Electrolux 'B'	3665½	+96½	2.8	...
35.70	Emess	35	-¼	2.0	...
18,912.90	Ericsson 'B'	2182½	+137½	0.9	
34.20	Eurocopy†	69		4.6	10.7
419.50	Eurotherm	463½	-6½	2.4	16.8
590.80	Fabey Group	595	+39½	1.9	18.4
150.70	Filtronic Comt	[illegible]	37	0.2	
123.00	Forward Gp			1.2	15.8
11.00	Forward Tech	½	+½	4.9	
10,364.60	GEC†	373½	-2½	4.2	19.1
102.70	Goseby	158	-9	5.3	
73.00	Ind Control†	133½		3.4	14.4
7.12	Intelek†	17	-½	6.6	15.1
10.80	Kode†	113½	+5	2.8	
4.50	LPA Ind	50	-4	4.8	16.7
154.70	Memmer-Sort	301	-9	2.5	17.4
20.20	Microvitec	25½	-½	4.3	
449.80	Mitel	425			
193.30	Oxford Inst	389	-3½	2.2	13.8
196.20	Pace Micro†	91½	+11½	3.3	10.2
9.91	Pacer Infotec	124½	+18	3.2	
95.10	Peak	78½	-1	5.6	.
9,726.80	Philips Lmp nv	2875	+78¼	1.8	...
7.88	Plasmec	160	-17½	4.8	
33.90	Plasmon	178½	-17	0.4	22.2
113.80	Pressac	227½	+4½	2.1	21.3
17.10	Prestwick	42	-1	2.4	9.7
314.70	Psion†	423½	+17½	0.7	.
824.50	Racal Elect	289½	-7½	2.6	21.6
18.70	Radamec	100½	-7	3.2	19.1
259.50	Renishaw†	357	+2	2.7	16.5
6.36	Rodime	2½	-¼		
118.90	Roxboro†	211½	+1	3.9	..
74.00	SDX Bus Sys	308½	-4	1.3	28.8
40.20	Servomex†	394	+13½	2.7	
84.30	Silvermines	78½	+1½	2.0	18.4
5,527.30	TDK	4203½	+96½	0.6	...
14.90	TGI	68½		6.1	7.2
212.80	TLG	117	-3	4.6	13.0
6.18	Tadpole Tech	23½	+3½		
52.90	Telemetrix	57½	-1½	3.2	11.8
79.20	Telspec	250	+22½	2.7	
19.00	Thorpe FW	147½	+3	3.6	12.3
3.13	Total Systems†	31	+1	6.0	9.2
70.70	Tunstall	215		2.9	12.3
127.80	Verity	50	+2½	0.4	.
91.70	Vero	152½	-29	4.9	.
118.60	Volex	425		6.0	12.6
2.74	Wakebourne	12½			
52.70	Whessoe	174		1.8	50.3

ENGINEERING

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
74.20	AIM†	515	-5	1.7	18.2
198.00	APV	66½	-1	5.2	.
23.40	ASW	28	-1½		
120.10	Alumasc†	298	-2	3.4	12.9
81.10	Alvis	142		2.6	15.8
70.70	Ash & Lacy	190½	-9½	4.8	..
65.80	Atlas Equip	63½		4.5	.
10.20	Ayrshire Metal†	102½	-2	7.3	
1,502.00	BBA†	361½	-2	2.4	19.4
53.10	BM†	111	-1½	7.5	9.0
110.90	Babcock	65½	+5½	3.6	
4.81	Bailey (CH)	8½			6.3
177.20	Baynes (Charles)†	114	-¼	3.2	13.6
19.10	Beauford	41	+1	2.3	
14.30	Benson Group	50		1.2	..
200.70	Berisford Intl	131½	+1½	4.3	22.2
1.32	Billam	82½	-2½	8.3	46.7
580.00	Bodycote	725	-9½	1.2	30.1
3.40	Booth Inds	42½			
19.10	Brasway	29½	-½	4.5	9.3
85.20	Bridon	114	-½	5.0	18.0
5,681.00	Br Aerospace†	1364½	+37	1.4	20.3
3,315.20	Br Steel	162½	+3½	7.7	6.1
9.12	Brooke Tool	120	-6½	3.1	7.7
20.50	Brunel	16½		3.7	12.7
138.50	Bullough†	114	+4	6.0	35.5
57.80	Bumfield	166½	+½	2.5	24.8
133.00	Carclo Eng	200		6.7	10.4
108.50	Castings	253½	-6½	2.2	16.1
9.89	Chamberlin Hill	135		7.0	9.4
40.30	Chemring	170	+17½	8.4	7.5
43.80	Clyde Blowers	334	-17	3.0	16.1
530.70	Cobham	572½	-21½	2.2	21.3
3.20	Cohen (A)	400		2.2	
76.70	Concentric	141	+1½	6.2	10.5
78.70	Cook (Wm)	421		3.9	14.0
141.10	David Brown	212½	+10	4.6	12.6
185.30	DS	351	-1½	4.7	12.6
5.98	Eleco	15½		2.0	..
26.60	Elliott (B)	67½	+1	5.6	9.0
74.50	Expamet†	117½		3.5	18.5
1,095.00	FKI	188	+2½	3.6	15.5
145.20	Fenner	156½		3.2	20.7
1.56	Ferrum	6½		...	
41.40	Firth Hldgs	51½	+¼	...	16.7
138.10	Firth Rixson	94		1.9	23.9
43.50	GEI Intl	117½	+½	4.8	11.2
5.95	Garton Eng	152½	+2½	6.1	
705.40	Glynwed	288½	-8	5.7	13.3
33.70	Graystone	85	-38½	9.8	5.3
140.60	Haden MacLn	124½	-5½	2.8	.
23.50	Hadleigh	313½	-6½	2.5	15.7
130.60	Hall Eng	245	-10	3.7	.
479.20	Halma	178	+7½	1.9	19.3
74.50	Hampson Ind	66	-1½	4.4	24.8
3.75	Hay (Norman)	25			20.1
8.04	Hayward†	37½	-4	4.7	7.0
27.60	Hill & Smith†	70	+5	11.1	12.2
24.10	Hopkinsons	30½		5.3	
23.50	How Gp	56	+2½	4.3	
378.40	Howden†	128½	+39	2.9	16.6
171.40	Hunting	174	+6	4.5	
1,363.20	IMI	392½	+6	4.2	15.0
1,185.40	Johnson Matth	546½	+11½	3.4	15.7
7.58	Jones Stroud	29½	-2	4.2	4.7
14.40	Kelsey Ind	465		6.5	15.1
22.90	Linread	241½	+15	4.6	10.4
32.80	Locker (T)	41	-½	2.4	17.0
68.10	ML Hldgs	41	-1	4.4	62.3
5.48	MS Intl	20	-2	3.6	29.1
90.40	Mang Bronze†	510½	+18	2.0	15.0
582.50	McKechnie	549	-6	4.3	13.2
262.10	Meggitt	120	-5	4.6	16.7
118.20	Metalrax	105	-2½	4.9	
19.10	MetalTech	1½	+½		
23.20	Metsec	149½	+3½	3.4	14.2
261.20	Molins†	755	+8	3.6	10.4
1,077.70	Morgan Crble	473½	+3½	3.9	16.2
29.80	Morris Ashby†	249½	+1	3.8	12.4
8.75	Mosspend	35		6.4	6.7
16.30	OMI Intl	22	-1½		31.3
561.20	Powerscreen	614½	-5½	1.9	18.5
24.90	Prospect Inds	4½			
114.40	Quadramatic	22½	-7½	5.0	12.5
2.44	Quadrant Grp	6½		4.8	
0.88	Radiant Metal	65			
91.30	Ransomes	37	+1	4.2	8.3
25.10	Record	73½	+1	6.6	11.2
159.30	Renold	231½		3.9	10.4
0.71	Richards Group#	8½		18.4	
26.90	Richardson West	74	+4½	1.2	
3,367.60	Rolls-Royce	228	-3	2.9	17.7
238.70	Rotork	372½	+14	3.7	
112.70	Rubicon†	128½	-½	5.8	9.2
970.10	SKF 'B'	1521½	-9½	2.8	
367.40	Senior Eng	117½	+2	3.8	16.2
87.70	[illegible]	447½	+40	1.5	
4,855.30	Siemens	1036½	-15½	1.7	21.3
70.90	Simon Eng	45	+7		
71.20	Six Hundred	129	-3	4.6	2.5
2,429.30	Smiths Ind	796½	-19	2.5	20.4
516.60	Spirax-Sarco†	663½	+5	2.8	17.2
83.90	Sterling Ind	276		4.0	13.9
2,641.80	TI†	556	-7½	3.3	18.5
18.10	Tinsley (E)	111	-½	6.6	11.5
196.50	Transtec	118½	+9½	2.5	
122.10	Tranter Lloyd	185½		4.7	10.5
61.60	Unicorn Intl	162	-4½	4.9	
28.00	Utd Inds	62½	...	4.9	17.8
812.90	Vickers	241½	+10	3.8	14.2
10.60	Villers Grp	9	-¼		
303.80	Vitec	625	-21	2.5	11.2
289.20	Vosper Thorny	892½	-8	3.4	14.9
153.00	Wagon Ind	286	-½	8.6	8.8
479.00	Weir	237½	+½	4.3	13.3
58.30	Wellington Hldg†	247	-3½	4.1	
38.00	Wellman	28	-2½	8.7	5.7
16.10	Wescol	51½	-½	2.4	19.7
134.90	Whatman	567½	+30	3.0	
5.87	Widney†	48½	+3	9.0	14.6

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
104.70	Adwest†	126½	-1	7.7	17.8
16.60	Airflow Stream	195		5.1	8.4
197.80	Avon Rubber	732½	-2½	3.3	14.2
294.60	BCG	99½	-1½	4.5	
45.60	Bosham	270	+12½	3.3	
10.90	Boustead#	16½		7.6	38.7
104.30	First Tech	660	-20	1.8	19.6
3,531.80	GKN†	1000½	+15	3.3	15.4
24,359.00	General Mtr	3428¾	-100	3.6	
283.60	Henlys†	535	-1½	3.5	12.6
17,787.80	Honda Motor	1826	-8½	0.4	
502.70	Laird	353½	+5	4.3	10.7
2,812.00	LucasVarity	196	-3	0.0	
384.10	Mayflower	152½	-9½	1.9	28.5
40.30	Syltone	166	-4½	4.5	12.2
803.60	T & N	151	+3½	5.1	
5.88	Toad	35	1½		
185.60	Trinity Hldgs	331½	-1	3.2	16.9

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,932.00	AB Food	548	+36½	2.2	18.0
130.90	Acatos & Hutch	301	+2½	4.2	40.6
326.60	Albert Fisher	45½	+2½	10.3	11.1
28.00	Banks (S C)	301	-1	4.7	11.4
74.40	Barr (AG)	383½	-4	2.8	20.8
18.60	Bensons Crsp	36½		3.4	9.2
798.30	Booker	326½	-23½	9.8	.
17.20	Borthwick	29½	-½	5.5	37.3
13.80	CPL Aromas	105	-85	6.1	5.3
5,405.40	Cadbury-Schwp	540	+6	3.9	14.8
15.30	Canadian Pizza	84½	-½	7.4	
25.50	Carrs Milling	319		4.1	10.3
44.60	Cavaghan†	66½	+5	7.0	
33.90	Cranswick	239	+3	5.0	14.0
225.10	Dairy Crest Group	203½	-1½	5.6	10.0
1,025.50	Dalgety	353½	+30½	8.0	30.1
16.50	Daniels S	40½	+½	0.8	32.5
482.10	Devro	303	+25	3.6	21.5
99.50	Finlay (James)	99½		4.6	19.1
188.40	Geest	259½	+7	4.1	20.4
33.60	Global	23	-½	3.6	
636.10	Greencore	345	-5	2.6	13.6
265.20	Hazlewood Fds	114		7.3	8.4
1,367.20	Hillsdown	193	+9	6.7	11.8
27.30	JLI Group	70	-1½	8.8	.
79.90	Linton Park	401½		4.7	14.1
158.70	Matthews (B)	128	+8½	4.1	.
71.20	Nichols (V)	185½	-1	4.9	
1,208.30	Nthn Foods†	208	-3½	5.5	13.2
10.10	Nthmbrn Fn	16½	-1	1.1	8.6
2.56	Pascoe's	91½	-5		16.3
139.50	Perkins Food	84	-1	6.9	
21.00	Plant & Gen	65½	-1	3.8	
11.10	Sentry Farm	147½		2.9	10.0
10.50	Sims Food	30½			
1,931.30	Tate & Lyle	434	+1	4.9	11.1
15.80	Treatt	156½		4.6	13.9
1,078.00	Unigate	452	+½	5.4	11.4
13,162.20	Unilever	1615	+16	2.5	
19,060.60	Unilever (NV)	£118½	+2⅛	1.3	.
1,229.10	Utd Biscuits†	232	+1½	5.4	15.7
16.90	WT Foods	30½		5.5	20.8
5.01	Yorkshire Food	11½	-½	9.8	.

HEALTHCARE

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
728.60	Amersham	1235	-26½	1.9	20.4
14.20	Anagen#	30½			
20.80	Assoc Nursg	126	-1½	3.4	9.4
157.50	Bespak	627½		2.3	9.2
820.90	Biocompatibles Intl	1212½	+60		
45.90	Care UK	100	-2½	1.2	14.7
98.10	Celsis	104½	-½		
130.40	Community Hlt	393½	-½	3.4	16.1
55.00	CrestaCare	29	-½	4.2	
4.53	Enviromed	17½	+1		
18.90	Ferraris Group	167½	+19	2.1	17.5
58.50	Goldsborough†	133½	-2½	4.0	13.7
101.90	Huntleigh Tec	207½	+9	1.7	19.7
115.90	Innovative Tech	353½	+33½		
23.00	Intercare Gp†	81	-1½	5.4	15.1
42.30	Isotron	335½		2.2	14.1
231.50	Life Sciences	132½		4.4	
607.90	Lon Intl	176½	+3	1.6	46.5
101.00	Nestor-BNA	132½	+6	3.3	18.3
1.19	Premier Health	15½	-½		
39.30	Quality Care	295		2.4	5.5
217.90	Scholl	314	-4½	2.1	
346.20	Seton Health	487½	-5	2.1	21.5
138.00	Shield Diag	715	+95		
1,983.30	Smith & Nephw	179	+4½	4.3	15.4
197.30	TC Group	117½	+5	3.7	
16.00	Tamaris	3		3.1	14.7
470.10	UniChem	266½	+11½	4.2	21.5
158.60	West Hlthcare†	249	-2½	2.1	14.8

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
59.60	Airsprung	249½	-½	2.8	15.2
113.80	Alba	238	+5	3.2	15.9
10.00	Armour†	26½	-1½	9.4	25.3
9.37	BLP Group	142	-3	4.5	
5.96	Bilston Bttrsea	67	-1	2.3	
16.10	Black Arrow	64½	-2	7.0	6.3
213.10	Black (Peter)†	380½	-6	1.9	21.6
81.40	Cornwell Parker Spt	192½	-11	0.9	22.2
4.88	Creighton NI	24½		5.1	
7.14	Dalyweart	59½	-2	12.6	
88.40	Denby Group	261½	+1½	1.9	21.4
55.10	Eclipse Blinds†	137½	+2	2.7	
4.76	Emlet†	37½		4.0	7.8
7.94	Gaskell	162	-5½	3.5	13.2
194.60	HWP Ind	276½		2.3	13.5
10.50	Jourdan (T)	60½	+14	2.6	
68.40	Kenwood App	149	-7½	8.4	8.6
8.16	Lionheart	9½	-½		
232.00	McBride	132½	-7	6.5	11.3
44.70	Mayborn	195	-6	5.3	
49.90	Osborne & Little	805	-60	2.4	17.5
115.90	Paterson Zch†	475	-11	5.0	11.8
97.80	Paterson Zch 'A'†	426	-11	5.5	10.5
23.30	Pifco†	231	-8½	3.1	13.4
15.60	Pifco 'A' Vtg	226	-8½	3.7	13.1
3,310.90	Reckitt Colman	815½	-15½	3.4	16.0
78.80	Relyon†	365	-10½	3.4	17.6
163.60	Royal Doulton	297½		4.2	
170.80	Silentnight	365	-2½	2.8	21.5
13.80	Stodard	20½	-¼	4.5	
77.70	Stoves†	308½	-9	2.2	21.4
24.50	Swallowfield	222½	-6½	3.8	13.8
13.30	Tomkinsons	204		7.0	14.1
6.46	Victoria Carpet	95		2.6	26.1
70.40	Walker Greenbk	59	-1½	7.8	10.8
606.00	Waterford Wdgwd	85½	+4	1.7	
4.70	Wood (Arthur)†	235	+5	3.7	

INSURANCE

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5,309.00	Am Gen	2590½	-12½	3.3	
146.00	Angerstein	118	-½	3.1	38.0
48.90	Bradstock†	76½	+3	9.3	12.5
1,653.00	Britannic	960½	-16	4.2	24.3
109.50	CLM Insce	127	-½	2.7	
4,569.50	Com Union†	671½	+30½	5.6	11.9
178.10	Cox Insce	168½		0.5	36.3
145.30	Dom & Gen	2135	+10	3.5	19.2
97.40	FBD (I)	241½	-4½	4.2	
27.80	Fenchurch Grp	68½	-½	10.0	9.7
42.60	Finsbury Under	134½		2.0	66.4
3,950.90	Gen Accident	818	+29	5.2	7.5
2,559.90	GRE	291	+3½	4.6	5.6
68.20	Heath C E	101½		5.5	12.3
167.60	Hibernian (I)	313½	-10½	4.3	
41.00	Hiscox Select	136½	-1	5.5	
311.70	Independent	683½	+2	3.5	8.4
961.90	Irish Life	316½	+11½	4.9	
205.70	JIB Group	158½	+½	6.4	11.4
353.70	Jardine Lyd Thf	190½	-2	6.5	
28.60	[illegible] Capital	112		3.5	34.6
94.10	Lambert Fen	106½	-6	9.9	12.5
4,839.90	Legal & Gen	390	+3½	3.6	23.1
4,206.70	Liberty Life†	1725	-39¾	2.6	
510.80	London & Man	417	-7½	6.3	11.2
364.00	London Inc Mlg	130	-1	4.8	34.9
5,500.80	Marsh McLn	7462½	-368¼	3.0	
47.20	Masthead	117		2.9	
58.10	Nelson Hurst	128	+7½	8.4	11.7
65.10	New London Cap	108½		3.5	29.3
40.70	Ockham	80½	-6	6.5	8.9
36.90	Orion	109½	-8	6.0	
20.00	Premium Trust	101		4.6	23.4
22.00	Premium Under	166½	-½		
10,914.80	Prudential†	567	-26½	3.8	12.5
5.46	PWS†	17½		4.6	10.6
6,973.20	Royal & Sun All	447	-3	5.3	12.9
354.60	St James Place	127½	+2		
649.50	Sedgwick†	118½	-7	6.8	10.2
13.20	Steel Burrill	24	-1½	8.1	
1,660.80	Sun Life & P	295	+16½	2.4	15.7

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
222.30	Edin Dragon	82½	-3	..	..
24.30	Edinburgh Inco	29½			
1,070.90	Edinburgh	364½	+1½	3.5	31.6
37.60	EFM Japan	108½	-1½		
805.60	Electra Inv	466	-1½	2.3	43.6
237.20	Electric Gen	362½	-6	1.8	56.6
83.40	English Nat	201	+5	0.2	
2.01	English Scot	152½	-½		..
97.00	European Asset	389	-6	1.3	
99.10	Fidelity Asian Val	96½	-1½		
141.30	Fidelity Euro Val	247½	-1		
40.50	Fidelity Jap Val	38½	-½	0.3	..
48.00	Fidelity Spec Val	130½	-½	0.5	
35.70	Finsbury 'A'	223	-½	2.2	50.2
170.50	Fine Ar Chile	186½	-3½	1.6	55.3
0.44	Fine Ar Wts	25½	-½		
293.20	Fleming Amer†	422½	-3½	0.8	..
44.30	Fleming Chinese	73½	-½	0.9	
3.30	Fleming Ch Wts	27½			
185.40	Fleming Claver	317	-5	2.6	41.4
276.20	Fleming Conti	433	-5½	1.2	..
127.80	Fleming Em Mkts	132	-1½	0.2	
96.80	Fleming Enter†	242	-5	2.7	30.7
390.90	Fleming F East	264½	-2	0.6	
52.40	Fleming Fledgn	416	-1	0.6	
84.50	Fleming Ing Inct	105	-2	11.3	10.9
64.80	Fleming Ind Cap	161	-4		
42.90	Fleming Indian	46½	-1		
2.98	Fleming In Wts	17½	-1½		
247.50	Fleming Japan	177½	-1		
543.30	Fleming Merc	376	-3	2.9	
46.00	Fleming Nat Res	112	-½	0.6	
445.50	Fleming Overseas†	335½	-6	1.7	69.0
41.90	Fleming Smllr Cot	157	-2	3.6	33.1
1,662.70	Foreign & Col	157½	-1	1.8	
40.70	F&C Inc Gwth†	94	+2	4.7	27.8
193.10	F&C Eng Mkts	103½	-1		
133.80	F&C Enterprise†	142½	+2½	2.1	
200.60	F&C Eurotst	322	-2½	0.5	
57.90	F&C German	147½	-½	0.5	
348.30	F&C Pacific	151½	-2	1.5	52.7
86.10	F&C PEP	146	-2	3.6	33.7
192.90	F&C Smaller	184½		1.6	73.4
65.40	F&C US Smlr	130	-2½		
23.70	Framlin Inc	60½		10.3	10.8
18.30	Framlin Cap	73½	-2½		
2.19	Framl Dual Cp	62½	-1		
2.97	Fulcrum Cap	18½	-½		
2.86	Fulcrum Inc†	25½		38.9	2.4
15.40	Fulcrum Zero	178	-½		
127.80	Gartmore Brit	355½	-1	4.1	
11.10	Gartmore Ent†	246		2.2	48.0
84.80	Gartmore Euro	210	-1½	0.9	
29.90	Gartmore Shrdt	88	+1	14.1	9.1
52.80	G'more Smll Cos	366½		2.0	67.9
47.00	Geared Inc Inv▼	41½	-2½	13.1	9.1
	Geared Inc	50½			
39.70	Genl Cons Cap	219	-3½		
37.30	Genl Inct	102½	-1	12.3	9.6
49.30	German Inv	125½		0.5	
96.20	Gov Asn Sm Cos	250½	-2	0.3	
40.60	Gov Eng Mkt	106½	-½	0.4	
42.70	Govett Am Smlr	171½	-3½		
18.70	Gov Glob Smlr	86			
36.60	Govett High Inct	77	+2½	9.1	13.7
572.30	Govet Oriental	159½	-5	0.5	
351.60	Govett Strategic	358	-3	2.5	42.5
58.70	Greenfriar†	485	-3½	1.9	69.1
0.47	Gresham House	11			2.0
61.00	GT Inc Growth	113½	-1½	3.6	
113.30	GT Japan†	181½	-½	1.2	78.0
98.50	Gum Fl Ex Inct	98½		9.7	11.8
18.50	Henderson Am Cp	49½	-½		
8.03	Henderson Am In	107		9.1	12.0
1.54	Henderson Am Wt	20½	-½		
32.10	Hend High†	122	-1	6.3	
85.90	Hend Strata	499½	-2	0.4	
45.40	Hend Tech	87	+1		
117.30	Herald†	141½	-4	0.7	
21.30	High Income T†	94	-4	8.6	13.8
126.80	H Govett Smll	150	-1	2.1	63.7
59.10	HTR Jap Smaller	59			
0.55	I&S Ent	18½	-½		
46.40	I&S Uk Smlr	160	-½	2.3	96.6
394.60	Inv Cap	159½	-2½	4.2	
82.70	Intl Biotech	130½	+10½		
3.55	Intl Wts	47	+5½		
110.40	INVESCO Asia	98½	-2½	0.8	
8.85	INVESCO Bluert	70		15.0	7.2
121.70	INVESCO Eng Intl	192	-4	0.7	64.8
13.20	INVESCO Jap Dis	47½	-½		
24.50	INVESCO Korea	73½	-1½		
42.10	INVESCO Tokyo	37½	-1½		
24.10	J Fry 2nd U	83	-½	11.0	11.3
9.85	J Fry Euro Ut	92½	-½	6.0	14.8
60.10	JF Fledg Jap	127½	-3		
39.30	Jupiter Ex Inc	103	-1	9.6	10.2
0.75	Jupiter Ex IncW	12½			
11.60	Jupiter Grd Capt	83	-1½	11.7	10.6
12.40	Jupiter Grd Pfd	35½	-½		
31.70	Jupiter Intl Grnt	136	-3½	3.9	
365.70	Klnwt Chrth	329½	-2½	2.2	49.1
31.50	Klnwt E Mkt	111½	-½		
47.10	Klnwt End	157	+2½		
27.90	Klnwt H Inct	83	-2½	13.3	9.9
233.00	Klnwt O'scast	290½	-6	2.3	
24.40	Klnwt Smlrt	184½	+½	2.4	
93.80	Korea—Euro	266½	-56½	0.5	
114.00	Latin American	126½	-2		
213.10	Law Debenture†	922½	-3½	3.4	
35.10	Ldr Offices Ist	108	+½		
32.50	Lloyds Sm Cap	131½	-½		
5.52	Lloyds Sm Dvl	22½		22.8	
38.00	Lloyds Sm Pkgt	155	-½	3.1	39.9
54.60	Lon St Lawrence	166½		4.7	26.7
75.10	Lowland	317	-4½	4.3	24.6
68.20	M&G 2nd Dual Cp	662½	-15		
7.75	M&G 2nd Dual In	77½			2.8
147.10	M&G Dual Cap#	3450			
5.69	M&G Dual Inc#	99			1.2
62.90	M&G Inc Geared†	83½	-1	10.6	11.4
96.30	M&G Inc Inv Tst Cp	35	-½		
70.30	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inct	28½	-½	23.7	5.1
195.30	M&G Inc Packaget	134	-2	5.0	24.0
179.30	M&G Inc Zero Div	72½	-½		
28.60	M&G Rec Cap	21½			
492.50	M&G Rec Geared†	49½	-1	13.8	9.1
38.40	M&G Rec Inct	28½	-¼	23.9	5.2
165.50	M&G Rec Packaget	147½	-½	4.6	27.0
134.00	M&G Rec Zero Div	99½	-1		
37.40	M Cume Euro	160½		0.6	
18.40	M Cume Japan	84½	+½		
61.20	M Cume Pac	149½	-2½	0.8	
122.60	Marble	262½	-1	3.3	33.0
288.00	Merchants	281½	-4½	6.0	
596.20	Mercury Euro Pv	114½		2.1	44.0
40.50	Mercury Em Wt	35½	-1½		
409.10	Mercury World	96	-1	1.5	79.5
8.52	Mercury Wld Wts	10	-1½		
494.70	Monks Inv Tst	637½	-8½	1.9	48.9
51.60	Morg Gren Inc	166½	-4½	4.6	26.5
3.15	Morg Wts	65	-3		
56.20	Morg Lat Amer	86	+1½	0.4	
4.11	Morg Wt	32	+½		
30.40	Murray Ent	125½	-2	2.8	36.8
0.84	Murray Ent Wts	17½	...		
41.90	Murray Emg Eco	82½	+½	0.6	
2.44	Murray Em Ec Wt	18½			
26.60	Murray Euro	73½	+½	0.8	.
357.10	Murray Income†	379	-5	4.6	28.1
530.10	Murray Intl	441	-5	3.8	
12.50	Murray S/C OP	195	-½		
11.40	Murray S/C Cap	204	-1½	...	
5.40	Murray S/C Inct	67½	-½	21.4	5.5
1.92	Murray S/C Ulst	3700		3.9	
254.70	Murray Small	454	-9½	1.4	67.1
97.40	Murray Vent	394½	-1½	4.8	21.8
1.99	Newmarket	5½			
150.70	O'seas Inv Tst	395½	-5½	1.2	.
3.65	O'seas Wts	203½	-3		
141.70	Pacific Assets	109	-3	0.5	.
181.20	Perp Inc Gth	105	-½	2.1	
16.80	Perpetual Jap	45	+¾		
46.80	Perp Uk Sm Cot	334½	-11	3.6	..
27.70	Personal Assets	£138½	+50	2.0	47.8
46.20	Pilot Inv	124½	-1	2.1	50.8
62.00	Prolific Inc	118½	-½	5.0	26.8
439.20	RIT Cap Ptnr	242½	-2½	0.9	
	Robeco	582½	-8½	2.2	.
	Rolinco	541½	-8½	1.2	
134.10	Schrd Asia Pac	95½	-1½	0.3	
86.90	Schrod Emg Cnl	89½			
100.50	Schrod Inc Gwth	127	-1½	4.0	23.9
70.90	Schrod Jap Gwth	56½	+½		
27.30	Schrod Korea	414	-56½		
7.64	Schrod Split Cap	27	-½		
63.40	Schrod Split Inct	112	+½	9.2	
54.40	Schrod Split Zero	144½	-1½		
290.60	Schrod UK Gwth	130	-2½	2.9	35.4
186.20	Schrod Vent Intl	193	-½		
814.80	Scot	397½	-3	2.6	46.6
391.30	Scot American†	175	-½	3.7	35.0
62.90	Scot Asian	256	-1		
4.68	Scot Wts	803	-12		
692.20	Scot Eastern	109½	+1	2.2	.
1,047.80	Scot Mtge	290½	-2	2.1	49.0
152.90	Scot Natl Tst	95½	-1	10.8	11.2
63.40	Scot Value	126	+½	2.0	62.3
390.70	Second Alliance†	2035	-10½	3.0	40.1
330.70	Secs Tst of Scot	103½	-3	4.4	27.6
29.90	Shires Smlrt	153½	-2½	4.9	24.7
130.00	St Andrew Invt	378	-1	3.1	
221.90	Temple Bar	386	-5½	5.2	22.0
256.00	Throgmorton†	84½	-1	3.4	40.2
683.60	Tpltn Emg Mkt	147½	+2½	0.6	
393.90	TR City Of Lon†	190	-2½	4.1	29.4
249.90	TR Euro Growth	165½	-1½	2.6	
94.10	TR Far East†	167½	-4	5.1	25.3
37.60	TR High Inc†	136	-1	5.9	16.8
219.60	TR Pacific	110½	-2½	0.3	
168.20	TR Property	35½	-1½	3.5	26.5
420.60	TR Smlr Cos	236	-1½	2.1	43.8
123.10	TR Tech Invt	338½	+2½	3.7	42.3
27.60	Turkey Trust	281	-3	1.6	
122.80	Undervalued Ast	159½	-2	1.8	58.6
67.70	Value Inc Tst	150		3.8	53.9
80.20	Value Real	86	-1½		
10.00	Voyageur Em Sm	99½		0.7	
29.00	Warrants & Val	36½	-¼		
16.30	Wigmore	80½	-1½	1.9	50.9
1,067.70	Witan	284½	-1	2.9	40.0
19.90	Yeoman Inct	81		23.3	5.2

LEISURE & HOTELS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
26.50	ABI Leis	80	-2½	7.6	7.9
1,343.60	Airtours	966½	+30½	2.0	20.2
49.00	Ald Leis	41½		2.5	33.8
73.80	Arcadian	50		2.6	64.9
9.40	BS Group	142½	-7½	3.9	
24.40	Baldwin	127½	-5	4.0	
34.50	Barr & Wall	231½	-12	5.9	14.3
82.90	Bluebird Toys	194½	+6½	6.0	
153.40	Boosey Hwks	782½	-2½	1.2	36.1
7.21	Brent Walker	1½	-½		
37.40	Burndene	36		6.9	9.6
208.30	Capital Corpn	207½	-2	5.0	
36.30	Cliveden▲	80½	-2	2.9	13.8
53.90	Clubhaus	90½	+5		
79.80	Eurocamp†	223½	-1½	6.2	12.2
830.10	Euro Disney	108½	+3		
56.70	Euro Leisure	157½	+6	0.8	4.5
3.81	Famingold#	14			16.0
238.10	First Choice†	100	+2½	3.5	54.3
554.50	First Leisure†	338½	+9	3.1	18.5
33.80	Friendly Hotels	158½	+3½	4.5	20.3
7,844.60	Granada†	917½		1.8	24.9
15.70	Hi-Tec Sports	31	-3½		9.4
20.30	Hornby	239		3.0	54.6
101.30	Hozelock	425½	-8	3.2	15.6
309.80	Jarvis Hotels	176	-1	0.7	
140.30	Jurys Hotel	330½	+1½	2.6	17.8
59.90	Kunick	25½		3.4	16.9
2,641.50	Ladbroke†	225	-1½	3.4	24.8
590.50	London Clubs	417	+5	2.4	27.6
128.90	Macdonald Hts	220	-½	2.3	23.9
418.00	Man Utd	644	+7½	1.0	42.9
530.10	Mandarin Ornt	75½	-4¼	5.1	
596.50	Millennium & Copt	412½	+12½	1.4	17.4
112.00	Northern	231½	-8	2.9	20.4
14.80	Prism Leisure	174½	-8	4.4	9.4
32.60	Queensborough	32			
52.20	Queens Moat	13½	-½		
3,540.50	Rank Grpt	423	+1	5.0	33.6
28.10	Ryan Hotels (I)	43	+½	5.0	8.7
409.70	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1432½		1.5	.
49.00	Sinclair (Wm)†	216	-4	4.7	12.5
19.30	Southampton	71	-½	1.8	
816.30	Stakis†	107	+8½	2.5	17.5
325.60	Stanley Leisure	296	-6	1.5	29.4
6.68	Tandem	7	-½		
1,300.10	[illegible]	346		1.4	22.5
1,148.20	Thistle Hotels†	186	+7½	2.5	18.2
108.60	Tottenhm Hot	108½	-2	0.8	18.5
23.20	Toy Options	110½	+6	4.0	9.0
98.40	VCI	256½	-4½	3.9	
165.20	Vardon†	126	+2	1.9	18.0

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MEDIA

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
59.80	GGT Group#	223		3.4	15.5
250.80	GWR Gp	232	+3½	1.4	40.2
58.40	Gaskeyne Group†	379½	-6	2.0	18.9
12.70	Goodhead†	31½		1.0	19.2
91.00	Grampian	278½		2.8	22.1
255.20	HTV Group†	290	-39	1.8	
17.50	Haynes Publ†	365		5.1	12.1
17.10	Highbury Hse	19			
77.70	Hodder H'line	220	+4	3.8	..
26.00	Home Counts	260		2.6	29.6
126.00	IBC	321½	-2½	3.2	12.0
38.90	Incepta	23	-1		15.6
1,092.80	Independent	827½		2.4	
5.29	Interemope	115	+5	4.4	9.1
377.80	Johnston Press	188½	-1½	1.5	20.5
15.30	Lopex	28½	-1	3.3	.
185.70	MAID	202½	+2½		
127.30	Maiden	324	+7½	1.9	38.4
16.10	MediaKey†	29½	-1½	4.8	
112.40	Metal Bulletin†	1135	-85	2.2	33.0
202.00	Midland Ind	146½	-5½	3.3	.
874.00	Mirror Grp†	208	+4½	2.7	14.6
264.60	More Grp†	636	-4	2.9	
5,550.60	News Corp	285½	-20	0.5	7.8
2,344.60	News Corp Pref	240	-16	1.5	
20.70	On Demand Inf	37½	+9		
7.79	Osprey Comms	26½			12.0
4,162.60	Pearson	729	-15½	3.1	57.8
31.20	Phonelink	64½	+7		
100.80	Portsmth Sund	840		2.0	16.9
42.70	Quarto	282½	-1½	4.3	9.8
6,364.40	Reed Intl	1120½	+27	3.1	19.6
10,454.90	Reuters†	619	+9½	2.4	20.2
98.80	Scott Radio	368½	-2	2.6	13.8
418.40	Scot TV	691½	-3	3.4	21.9
73.70	Shandwick†	53½	+½	3.3	9.9
4.95	Sleepy Kids	16½	-2½	0.8	6.2
79.70	Southnews	504½	+1	1.6	27.7
11.70	Sterling Pub	25			49.1
113.40	Taylor Nelson	51	+½	2.0	
46.40	Television Co	187	-3	2.0	15.1
7,455.90	Thomson Corp	1252	-29	3.7	26.3
688.70	Trinity Inf	498	+½	3.0	20.1
84.70	Ulster TV	156	-11	4.2	
3,702.30	United News†	752½	+35½	3.9	50.0
7.29	VTR	67½		8.8	5.4
92.40	Visual Action†	184½		2.8	15.3
1,979.40	WPP	253½	-2	0.8	18.4
84.10	Wilmington	118	-4	0.3	36.6
621.00	Yorkshire TV	1125	-5	2.0	29.2

MINING

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,081.90	Ang Am Coal	4293½	-96¼	3.2	.
8,822.40	Ang Am	3775	-68½	2.2	15.1
1,039.00	Ang Am Gold	4303¼	-284¼	3.5	
15.30	Anglo Pac Res	18½			
135.90	Arcon Intl	49	+1		
864.80	Ashanti†	909½	-34½	2.0	
294.30	Ashton	105	+10½	5.4	
65.10	Avocet	208	-12		
75.00	Bakyrchik	188½	-8½		
320.10	Beatrix	340½	-31¼	5.7	15.9
3.52	Blotch	33½		2.8	
39.00	Blyvoors	77			
115.50	Bougainville	28½	+1½		
1.95	Butte#	0½			
5,814.00	CRA	904½	-5½	3.7	18.0
404.20	Central Pacific	403	-51¼		
5.26	Cons Murchison	84½	-2	5.8	7.9
8,364.80	De Beers	2200	-40½	2.1	27.5
48.90	Deelkraal	49	+4¼		
1,145.20	Driefontein	561½	-53½	4.2	26.4
47.30	Durban	513½	-23¼		
49.30	E Rand Gold	107½	-2½	16.8	5.9
47.10	E Rand Prop	30½	+3½		
312.30	Elandsrand	322	+16½	6.0	..
637.00	Eng China Cl	207½	+15	7.5	23.1
140.80	Exander	368	-½	4.9	8.2
532.90	FS Cons	447½	-38¼	1.7	58.7
14.70	FS Dev	66	-2	1.5	
1,450.20	GFSA	1493½	-140½	2.0	35.0
3,862.20	Gencor	277½		1.2	19.0
14.10	Gold Fields Prop	138	-3	6.5	10.2
19.20	Greenwich R 'A'	16½	-1½	..	11.1
16.70	Grootvlei	145½	-10	3.3	33.3
107.50	Gwelu Cons	136½	+1½	0.7	20.4
146.10	Harmony	506½	-16		
451.00	Impala Platt	712½	-40½	1.9	
77.40	Kinross	62	-2½	19.4	5.6
633.50	Kloof	457	-29	3.3	37.4
18.60	Meshalhurs	24	-4½		
1,336.80	MIM	82	+½	1.5	.
3,289.80	Minorco	1458½		2.6	
42.80	Monarch	73½	-½		
10.10	Mosteagle†	154	+2	2.8	
4.88	NCMA#	8			
1,335.50	Normandy	83	-1	3.5	14.4
1,420.90	North	199	-2	3.1	22.8
74.60	Petaling Tin†	370	+5	0.2	
485.90	RGC	237½	-15½	2.1	9.7
528.50	RJB	362½	-13½	6.4	5.3
10,319.10	RTZ†	963½	+19½	3.5	19.2
11.90	Rackwood	45½	-2½	9.5	.
164.10	Randfontein	268½	-6	6.7	21.2
1,252.70	Rustenbg†	981½	-31¼	2.8	25.3
72.50	St Barbara	34½	-1½		
32.90	St Helena	341½	-17	2.0	41.0
316.90	Sons Gwalia	310	-11½	3.9	18.5
429.60	Sthern Pacific	154½	-16		
462.60	Southvaal	1778½	+21½	7.2	.
3.51	Stilfontein	26½	-½		
707.10	Vaal Reefs	3700	-416½	7.5	.
25.30	Warrior Col Z	25		6.1	
5.52	Wales Hall	0½		.	
91.30	Watts Blake	436		4.4	14.6
501.60	Western Deep	1809½	-158½	2.8	36.2
4,271.70	Western Mng	386½	-16½	2.5	23.7
178.60	Zambia Copper	145½	+9½	.	.

OTHER FINANCIAL

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
180.00	Rutland Tst	59½	-1	3.0	..
20.30	SEC Group	137½	-8	4.8	10.9
50.30	S & U	426	-2½	4.8	10.7
2,385.80	Schroders†	1580	-36	1.6	17.2
671.00	Schroders N/V†	1380	-38½	1.8	
284.70	Singer & Fried	142	-20	4.2	11.9
5.93	Tonry Lan	38½	-½	.	...
2.92	Tre Hldgs	3½			..
23.10	Union	87	-2½	4.3	9.4
27.50	Wintrust	320	-10	5.0	15.1

PHARMACEUTICALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,636.70	Brit Biotech	249½	+6	..	..
160.50	Cantab Pharms	1022½			.
442.70	Celltech	582½	-77		
591.50	Chiroscience	370	+3½		
347.20	Cortecs	268½	-5	..	
39,613.40	Glaxo Wellt	1116½	-36½	3.7	17.6
284.20	ML Laboratories	196	-19½		51.3
1,076.90	Medeva†	307½	-5½	2.0	.
123.30	Phynde Ther	344	-6		
28.90	Proteus Intl	52½	+2		
352.30	Scotia	457½	+50		.
189.90	Shire Pharms	326	+4½		.
230.40	SkyePharma	66½			
24,868.60	SmithKline†	903	+2½	2.2	23.0
81.00	Therp Anti Inc	378½	-12½		
160.60	Vanguard	647½			..
88.60	Xenova	383	-12		
16,690.90	Zeneca†	1762½	+12	2.5	24.9

PRINTING & PAPER

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
29.00	AG Holdings	138	-1	5.4	11.5
212.20	API	756	+3	1.8	24.0
15.20	App Holo	57½	-2½		
1,834.60	Arjo Wiggins†	198½	+12	4.7	16.9
30.40	Aspen Comm	196	-5	4.1	
41.70	Bath Press	19½	+¼	2.9	10.6
185.50	Bemrose	437½	-11	4.4	
139.40	Blagden	192½	-8½	1.7	
869.90	Bowater Inc	2431¼	-93¼		
219.10	Bowmere	306½	-5	1.2	
268.30	Br Polythene†	664		3.4	
3.14	Br Thornton	19½			
166.00	Britton Grp	119½	-1	3.5	
870.70	Bunzl†	216	+1	3.6	13.2
64.90	Capital Inds	191½	-1	3.8	
29.50	Cooper (James)	365½	-1	1.4	13.0
1,240.90	De La Rue	552½	-2½	6.4	14.1
6.48	Delyn Group#	74½		3.4	14.8
48.60	Dolphin Pack	207½		3.5	16.9
25.90	Fairway Group	64½		7.9	15.0
88.10	Ferguson Intl	217½		7.6	11.5
41.80	Filofax†	139½		3.2	10.4
61.80	Inveresk	117½	-1½	6.4	43.6
110.20	Jarvis Porter	235		3.7	13.9
415.60	Low & Bonar	419	-5½	4.5	10.8
157.60	MY Holdings	116½	-9	2.6	17.6
227.80	Macfarlane	180½	-4½	2.9	
19.70	Nobo Gp†	111½	+14½	7.0	8.3
48.50	Photobition†	465	+34	1.8	23.8
84.40	Pyco	175½	-1	5.2	17.2
30.90	Porter Chadbn	25½	-½	1.2	9.3
1,757.50	REXAM	348½	+15	6.2	24.5
532.60	St Ives Gp	530½	-9½	2.4	19.4
742.20	Sappi	470½	-7½	4.1	
1.49	Seri	2	-½		
77.30	Sellam	112½	+11½	2.2	
792.80	Smith David	250½	+9½	3.8	8.4
1,743.60	Smurfit (Jeff)	161	-½	3.0	5.6
1.73	Somic	86½		4.3	8.9
70.10	Wace	88½	-3	4.3	
339.40	Waddington	323½	-2	3.8	16.1
267.50	Watmoughs†	390	-5½	3.3	
65.50	Wyndeham	184½	-12	3.1	13.3

PROPERTY

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
56.50	Allied Lon	81	-2½	6.3	11.6
256.70	Argent	425	-1½		..

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
850.60	MFI	144	+1½	4.0	13.9
13,820.60	Marks Spencer	487½	+21	3.0	19.2
266.30	Menzies (John)†	473		3.6	12.3
20.20	Merchant Retail	23½	-½		26.1
246.50	Moss Bros	1392½		1.7	28.4
2,331.90	Next	623½	+24½	3.1	19.9
7.59	Oliver (G)	30	-½		
377.80	Ottakar Intl	510	+2½	3.0	15.7
16.00	Partridge Fine†	72½		5.3	14.1
15.80	QS Hldgs	40		4.9	
120.20	Rosebys	327½	-5	3.0	
1,114.70	Sears	73	-4½	6.8	59.5
103.30	Signet Group	35½	+1½		
1,270.70	Smith WH†	449½		4.4	...
349.40	Sotheby's	1030	-5	2.4	.
995.70	Storehouse	239½	-13	4.0	15.8
68.40	Stylo	115		5.1	17.8
141.50	T & S Stores	196½	+8	5.1	.
725.60	Thorn†	167½	-13	9.9	12.9
97.30	Tie Rack	187½		1.9	18.7
6.47	Upton & South	3½			17.7
3,533.70	Vendome	506½	-11	2.5	18.8
29.10	WEW Group	20	+½		16.7
102.10	Wickes	135	+1		
14.60	Wld of Leather	120½	+43	2.1	25.2
106.50	Wyevale†	274½	+4½	2.8	19.7

SUPPORT SERVICES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
2,242.50	ADT	1615	-7½		
379.20	AEA Tech	474	+2½	2.0	21.9
167.10	Alpha Airps	99½	+½	6.3	12.7
15.80	Alphameric	37	+1½		14.5
294.90	Aldrs IWS	330½	+4½	2.5	23.3
37.40	BNB Res	171½		5.7	
122.40	BPP	455	-2½	3.6	
42.50	BSM	152½	-2½	6.4	
592.80	BTG	677½	+35	0.7	
9.15	Brooks Service	71½	-4	5.6	11.4
247.70	Business Post	480	-8½	2.4	24.5
756.40	CMG	1180	+80	0.6	
322.40	CRT Grp	235	-½	2.2	29.6
21.50	Camd Gp	79½	+40	1.3	7.3
430.80	Capita Group†	705	-10	0.9	49.8
3.60	Chemex	8½	+1½	2.1	21.6
1,221.60	Chubb Sec	433½	-½	2.5	21.1
297.60	Corp Services†	201½		3.1	
23.70	Coutts Cnslg	48½	-½	6.1	
63.20	DCS Gp	329	+15½	0.6	41.5
372.10	Davis Service	270	+3	4.9	13.9
236.90	Delphi	822½	-2½	0.9	
26.50	Dudley Jenkins†	214½		2.3	20.1
10.70	EW Fact	59	-4½	4.3	
20.30	El Data Prct	77½	+6	3.5	11.7
148.50	FI Group†	500	-9	1.1	40.5
2,363.00	Hays	544	+3½	2.0	22.5
173.50	Hogg Robinson	186½	-½	5.8	9.0
248.20	JBA Hldgs	728	-37	0.7	43.5
143.80	Johnson Clean	290	+3½	5.2	
35.00	Kalamazoo	89½	-13	5.9	9.2
74.40	Kewill Sys	586	-11½	1.8	16.0
9.50	Laser-Scan	29½			
55.90	Lavendon	262½	+27	1.6	20.4
71.70	Leigh	108½	-2	4.5	
612.50	Logica†	961½	+19	1.1	33.7
98.40	Lynx Hldgs	100½	+1½	2.2	18.7
50.90	MDIS	48		3.1	
67.20	MMT Comp	565	+17½	1.9	24.5
51.10	MR Group†	91½	-2	4.9	16.2
79.80	Macro 4†	405	-7½	7.6	11.2
41.90	Menzmore Abbey†	49		1.5	
190.40	Micro Focus	1252½	+20		
70.50	Microgen†	178½	+1	5.5	11.8
1,068.80	Misys†	1242½	+7½	1.1	26.3
110.60	MITIE Gp†	171	-9	1.3	24.8
18.30	Nova Group	33½	-½	5.6	8.3
29.10	Orbis	40½		3.0	14.2
177.90	P & P	230½	+1½	2.1	17.0
336.90	Page (Michael)†	542½	+½	2.1	17.3
218.30	Parity†	510	-12½	1.0	.
24.00	Pegasus	374½	-4	2.4	
13.80	Penna	125	-6½	2.0	.
91.80	Photo-Me	128	-4½	4.9	16.0
9.12	Proudfoot	11½	-½		2.8
35.40	RCO†	237	-16	8.4	27.6
38.00	RPS Group	300	+11½	2.5	18.9
15.00	Radius	63½	+2½	3.9	
16.00	Real Time	228½	+1½	2.7	9.2
55.50	Rebus	60		3.7	14.8
77.60	Reed Executive	151½	-2½	1.9	9.9
26.30	Reliance Sec†	115	+3	7.3	11.9

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Gss red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)					
1,998	Treas 7% 1997	100	-	6.98	6.19
5,550	Treas 8¾% 1997	101	-	8.66	6.17
830	Exch 15% 1997	104	-	14.31	6.38
3,550	Exch 9¾% 1998	102	-	9.51	6.52
8,150	Treas 7¼% 1998	100	-	7.21	6.62
970	Treas 14% 1998-01	107	-	12.97	6.73
925	Treas 15½% 1998	112	-	13.82	6.81
3,909	Exch 12% 1998	107	-	11.13	6.87
1,900	Treas 9½% 1999	104	-	9.11	6.96
3,050	Exch 12¼% 1999	109	-	11.18	7.03
1,252	Treas 10½% 1999	106		9.83	6.98
6,950	Treas 6% 1999	97	+	6.13	7.00
1,798	Conv 10¼% 1999	107	.	9.55	7.13
5,358	Conv 9% 2000	104	-	8.60	7.20
9,830	Treas 8% 2000	102	-	7.82	7.26
3,171	Treas 13% 2000	116	-	11.16	7.28
4,406	Treas 10% 2001	108	-	9.19	7.35
12,750	Treas 7% 2001	98	-	7.10	7.36
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)					
6,527	Treas 9¾% 2002	109	-	8.87	7.46
8,600	Treas 8% 2003	102	-	7.80	7.47
2,503	Treas 10% 2003	112	-	8.90	7.53
1,629	Treas 11½% 2001-04	114	-	10.09	7.36
545	Fund 3½% 1999-04	83	-	4.17	8.33
3,412	Conv 9½% 2004	110	-	8.56	7.56
6,610	Treas 6¾% 2004	95		7.07	7.52
10,373	Treas 8½% 2005	105	-	8.06	7.61
4,842	Conv 9½% 2005	111	-	8.55	7.61
2,278	Treas 12½% 2003-05	125	-	9.96	7.56
11,700	Treas 7½% 2006	99		7.57	7.63
4,000	Treas 7¾% 2006	100	-	7.72	7.67
2,050	Treas 8% 2002-06	101	+	7.89	7.64
3,150	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	119	-	9.83	7.54
7,397	Treas 8½% 2007	106	-	8.03	7.66
5,621	Treas 9% 2008	109	-	8.20	7.70
3,450	Treas 8% 2009	102	+	7.81	7.74
LONGS (over 15 years)					
4,750	Treas 6¼% 2010	87	+	7.16	7.77
5,273	Conv 9% 2011	110	+	8.14	7.78
5,360	Treas 9% 2012	110	+	8.12	7.77
1,000	Treas 5½% 2008-12	81	+	6.71	7.54
6,100	Treas 8% 2013	101	+	7.85	7.78
800	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	99	+	7.77	7.79
13,787	Treas 8% 2015	102	-	7.82	7.75
7,550	Treas 8¾% 2017	109	-	7.99	7.80
11,500	Tr 8% 2021	102	-	7.79	7.74
UNDATED					
1,909	War Ln 3½%	44	+	7.79	
475	Treas 2½%	32†	+	7.72	
359	Consols 4%	50	..	7.98	.
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:				10%	5%
800	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	113	-		2.27
2,150	Treas IL 2½% 2001	185	+	2.77	3.40
2,300	Treas IL 2½% 2003	181	-	3.02	3.49
1,150	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	117	-	3.08	3.46
2,350	Treas IL 2% 2006	191	-	3.21	3.61
2,400	Treas IL 2½% 2009	171	-	3.30	3.55
2,950	Treas IL 2½% 2011	177	-	3.35	3.57
3,400	Treas IL 2½% 2013	146	-	3.40	3.59
3,400	Treas IL 2½% 2016	156	-	3.43	3.61
3,350	Treas IL 2½% 2020	149	-	3.50	3.65
3,400	Treas IL 2½% 2024	123	-	3.51	3.65
1,300	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	121	-	3.51	3.65

BRIEFINGS

A task force has been formed by Business in the Community and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations to consider how companies and voluntary bodies can work together for mutual benefit. The group will report to the Business in the Community annual meeting in December and the voluntary sector body in January.

☐ An exhibition, a conference and a seminar programme are to be held under the umbrella title of Enterprise Focus 1997 at London's Barbican Centre from June 26-28 to show businesses how to target Asian, African and African-Caribbean customers and to promote equal opportunities policies among employers. Details: 0171-403 1991.

☐ Proposals to protect the personal pensions of self-employed people who go bankrupt have been submitted to Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. The association became worried after a High Court ruling that would allow a trustee in bankruptcy to claim a debtor's pension rights and realise them for creditors' benefit.

☐ The Millennium Commission has awarded funds to upgrade village halls in Wales and Northern Ireland and adapt some as telecottages, the technology-equipped centres for use by small businesses. It is giving £5 million for 70 projects in Wales and £4 million for 60 in Northern Ireland. Interested bodies will have to make bids for the grants.

All the right ingredients

Brian Collett finds a restaurant that defied the odds by succeeding in the recession-hit City

ANDRÉ CAMARA

HAVE A GOOD TIME AT FUEGOS

Restaurateur Adrian Barbieri soaks up the atmosphere at his bustling tapas bar in Pudding Lane

THE bank manager told Adrian Barbieri he was crazy to start up in the City of London. It was 1993, Britain was in recession, City staff were losing their jobs, money was tight, the champagne lunch scene had faded, even sandwich bars had closed through lack of trade — and Mr Barbieri was opening a restaurant and tapas bar.

During the restaurant's first week the pessimistic bank manager paid a visit, but the place was bursting at the seams and he failed to get in.

Mr Barbieri is no stranger to battling against the odds. At the age of 21 he took over his Italian family's London catering business with heavy debts when his father died young. With nearly three decades of running the business behind him he decided to start Fuego in Pudding Lane, concentrating on Spanish specialities and Mediterranean food.

"It was mainly a case of listening to what people wanted," said Mr Barbieri. Budgets for entertaining had been slimmed down, so Fuego was not to be an expense-account restaurant. Instead, reasonably priced eating had to be on the menu for the new breed of recession-hit City people. "A really good meal cost £15, and that was unheard of in the City," said Mr Barbieri.

Another draw was the tapas selection. Mr Barbieri had visited Tapa Tapas in Barcelona, Europe's biggest tapas bar, and had seen busy young professionals in the United States "eating on the run".

He said: "I observed that one trend was grazing — having a variety of starters and making them into a meal. I tailored all this to the British palate."

The vital ingredient, however, was probably the evening entertainment and a singles bar. Mr Barbieri organised a disco and sometimes live music, playing anything from Spanish to modern dance.

Mr Barbieri started Fuego with £190,000 and later put in another £60,000. Business boomed in the first week, partly because customers flock to a new restaurant, but Fuego lost money for 18 months. Now it is in profit and turning over more than £1 million a year.

Another achievement in 51-year-old Mr Barbieri's career is that he became the youngest member of the Unlicensed Restaurants Wages Council in his mid-twenties. He said he joined because of the "horrible stigma attached to the catering industry, akin to sweeping the streets".

Last chance to take tax-planning action

By Rodney Hobson

WITH just four working days left to the end of the tax year, it is now or never for companies to take precautions against the possible actions of the next government.

John Orpen, of Coopers & Lybrand, said: "After every election since 1979, the first Budget of the new parliament has brought significant changes to the tax environment and we expect the same in 1997, regardless of the outcome of the election. Business owners have to decide whether to act within the current tax regime or wait to see whether the new tax environment offers better opportunities. While there is a tendency to wait and see, it may well be that a lot of the current tax planning opportunities disappear soon, whether there is a change in government or not."

Mike Warburton, senior partner in Grant Thornton, the business adviser, said: "Whatever your political persuasion, you can hope for the best but you should plan for the worst."

Mr Orpen, head of corporate entrepreneur and private client services at Coopers, advises owners of family companies who plan to take cash out of the business to do so before April 6 to take advantage of the current, comparatively benign, tax regime.

The three options for owners of family businesses are to take cash as remuneration, pay it as dividends to shareholders or put it into a pension scheme. Mr Orpen warns business owners: "While there seems little threat of immediate income tax rate rises from either the Conservative or Labour parties, any of these remuneration methods could become less attractive with a change of government."

Mr Warburton says that though Conservatives and Labour have both ruled out income tax rates above 40 per cent, a 50 per cent rate could not be ruled out if the Liberal Democrats held the balance of power in a hung parliament.

Both advisers comment that a rise in tax could come in the form of a National Insurance surcharge.

Mr Orpen added that any plans to transfer shares to the next generation should be reviewed this week, and owners can take advantage of the current scheme for retirement relief even if they have no immediate plans to retire or sell a firm.

"It's April and every other day of the year fool!"

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Pressac Holdings, SCI Entertainment. **Finals:** Bourne End Properties, Gaskell, Hit Entertainment, Inch Kenneth Kajong Rubber, Martin Currie Pacific, Premiere Group, Reunion Mining, Telemetrix. **Economic statistics:** Royal Bank of Scotland oil report; BBA end-February monthly mortgage lending; March purchasing managers' index.

TOMORROW

Interims: UDO Holdings. **Finals:** Camas, Densitron International, Headlam Group, Hewden-Stuart, Johnston Press, La Senza, Princedale Group, Radamec Group, Rugby Estates, Senior Engineering, Ultra Electronics, Walker Greenbank, Yule Catto. **Economic statistics:** February final M4 money supply; February net new consumer credit; March official reserves; March provisional M0 money supply.

THURSDAY

Interims: China Investment & Development, Wescol Group. **Finals:** Laird Group, Rugby Estates, Senior Engineering, United Assurance

FRIDAY

Interims: None scheduled. **Finals:** AFA Systems. **Economic statistics:** Confederation of British Industry March distributive trades survey.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Mail on Sunday: *Buy:* Premier Oil; *Sell:* Burmah Castrol. **The Sunday Telegraph:** *Buy:* MFI, Scottish Radio Holdings. Rebus, Kwik Save. ***The Sunday Times:*** *Buy:* Alfred McAlpine, Bourne End, Vickers, Rugby Estates. **The Observer:** *Buy:* Booker, J. Sainsbury. **Sunday Business:** *Buy:* Bath Press, BSM, Brunner Mond

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Further decline of French trade on horizon for Laird

LAIRD GROUP: Difficult second-half trading conditions for Laird, the industrial group led by John Gardiner, will be reflected in full-year figures on Thursday, which are expected to reveal a small downturn. Pre-tax profits are likely to come out at £66 million compared with £68.1 million last time, with earnings down from 34.4p to 33.7p. However, there should be scope for a 7 per cent increase in the dividend from 12p to 12.8p.

European construction and automotive markets were at best flat last year, while the group's service industries operation suffered from a period of destocking, especially in information technology.

Laird's sealing systems operation in France, which supplies to the likes of Renault, has seen a 30 per cent decline in sales, which is certain to affect margins. A further decline in the French market is expected during the rest of the year.

There are signs of improvement in industrial products as economic growth continues to gather pace.

BEP: Profit forecasts for Bourne End Properties were downgraded for 1996 after disappointing interims, Selwyn Jones, Credit Lyonnais Laing analyst, said.

His pre-tax profit figure of £1 million for the year to the end of December, against £1.1 million last time, allows for the impact of two deals — the July 1996 property swap with Regalian Properties in which it sold a retail portfolio for £17.52 million and acquired a 50 per cent interest in the Waverley Shopping Centre, Edinburgh, for £16 million, and an £8.35 million acquisition from Threadneedle Fund Managers.

Mr Jones estimates a 5 per cent increase in net asset value to 85p, allowing for a small rise in the value of the retail parades and no change for the office portfolio.

UDO HOLDINGS: When the group reported full-year results in November it commented that trading conditions had been difficult and that sales growth in the reprographics market had been slower than expected. The acquisition of Sarkpoint, UDO's largest competitor in the lucrative London market, should have helped its position. Credit Lyonnais Laing predicts similar pre-tax profits of £3 million for the six months to the end of January for earnings of 6.7p against 6.8p last time. The broker looks for an improvement in the dividend to 7.3p from 6.8p.

John Gardiner, chairman of Laird, has had to contend with flat continental markets

HEADLAM GROUP: A good result from floorcoverings should help to lift pre-tax profits for the year to the end of December to £11.5 million from £7.7 million, says Antony Legge at Beeson Gregory, the broker.

The analyst pointed out that the major event of last year was the purchase of Gradus Group in December. This will have had no effect in 1996, but should be earnings-enhancing in the current year.

The analyst predicts an increase in the dividend from 4.8p to 5.8p from earnings up from 12.2p to 15.4p.

HEWDEN STUART: Full-year figures tomorrow are expected to show a decline in pre-tax profits from £36.3 million to £29.5 million. Mark Howson, of Beeson Gregory, looks for second-half pre-tax profits of £14.4 million, helped by some improvement in hire rates during the period.

Overall hire rates are believed to have ended the year down around 6 per cent, with rates in unmanned and general hire being the prime culprits for the weakness. Mobile cranes remain soft despite 85 per cent utilisation, although access and tower cranes have been strong.

NatWest Securities points out that for every £1 increase in turnover profits at Hewden Stuart grow 50p.

JOHNSTON PRESS: Mr Legge marginally upgraded his forecast for the year to the end of December because of better than expected margin improvement at the Emap regional newspapers it bought last year.

He is now looking for pre-tax profits of £23.4 million against £16.8 million with earnings up from 7.9p to 9.6p. He has pencilled in a 2.25p payout compared with 2.1p last time.

RUGBY ESTATES: BZW expects pre-tax profits of £2.1 million against £1.1 million for the year to the end of December. Earnings a share are expected to grow from 4p to 7.7p, with the dividend increasing from 2.18p to 2.4p.

SENIOR ENGINEERING: BZW predicts a sharp fall in pre-tax profits from £22.1 million to £3.7 million in the year to the end of December because of the £29.3 million write-off incurred when Senior sold its thermal engineering business to a management buyout. Bid rumours persist at the group.

UNITED ASSURANCE: This is the first full set of figures to be reported since the merger of Refuge Assurance and United Friendly. NatWest Securities, the broker, is looking for pre-tax profits of £210 million compared with £163.1 million, with the benefits already coming through from cost reductions estimated at £35 million a year.

Earnings are set to rise 31 per cent from 34.5p to 45.1p, while a first-time payment of 18p is forecast.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

American payroll data awaited as interest rate clue

Nervous financial markets, spooked last week by the US Federal Reserve's quarter percentage point interest rate rise and looking for clues to the next likely move, will be given some useful data to chew on in the next few days.

The most widely watched data release of them all, US payrolls, comes on Friday. It is expected to show that US jobs growth slowed to between 160,000 and 205,000 in March after the 247,000 of January and 339,000 in February. This would leave the unemployment rate at, or marginally below, the 5.3 per cent of February. Analysts do not believe that this will move the US any closer to its next change in interest rates.

Another key US indicator, the National Assocation of Purchasing Managers' March report, is due out today. HSBC James Capel is predicting that the NAPM index will come in at 53, and the market consensus, according to MMS International, is 53.5.

This sort of level, close to February's 53.1, would indicate a steady expansion in manufacturing activity.

Britain's equivalent, the Purchasing Managers' Index for March, also comes out today. The PMI fell to 53.5 in February, from 53.9. This still shows expansion in manufacturing, while prices showed their largest drop since July 1996. Further benign data could help to cool speculation about interest rate rises after the May 1 general election.

On Thursday, the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply will publish the first PMI for Britain's services sector, covering all the industry's sectors apart from retail and wholesale. It is designed to flesh out the British economic data set, which is heavily skewed towards manufacturing, in spite of its dwindling role in the economy.

The Confederation of British Industry will publish its distributive trades survey for March on Friday. It has fallen short of expectations for several months, and economists are predicting little improvement in sentiment this time.

SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.17	2.01
Austria Sch	20.22	18.72
Belgium Fr	59.30	55.00
Canada $	2.343	2.183
Cyprus Cyp£ .	0.850	0.795
Denmark Kr ...	10.99	10.19
Finland Mkk ...	8.61	7.96
France Fr	9.62	8.97
Germany Dm .	2.89	2.68
Greece Dr	450	424
Hong Kong $	13.26	12.26
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.08	1.00
Israel Shk	5.76	5.11
Italy Lira	2879	2679
Japan Yen	215.40	199.40
Malta	0.658	0.603
Netherlds Gld	3.223	2.993
New Zealand $	2.49	2.27
Norway Kr	11.38	10.58
Portugal Esc ..	287.00	268.50
S Africa Rd	7.79	6.99
Spain Pta	243.00	226.00
Sweden Kr	13.18	12.18
Switzerland Fr	2.50	2.32
Turkey Lira	213900	199900
USA $	1.727	1.597

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Thursday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6303 (+0.0265)
German mark
2.7345 (+0.0348)
Exchange index
98.0 (+1.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2851.4 (+28.7)
FTSE 100
4312.9 (+58.1)
New York Dow Jones
6740.59 (-64.2)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
18210.42 (-422.74)

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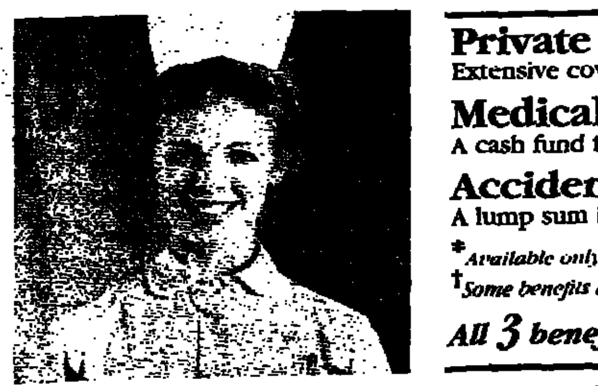

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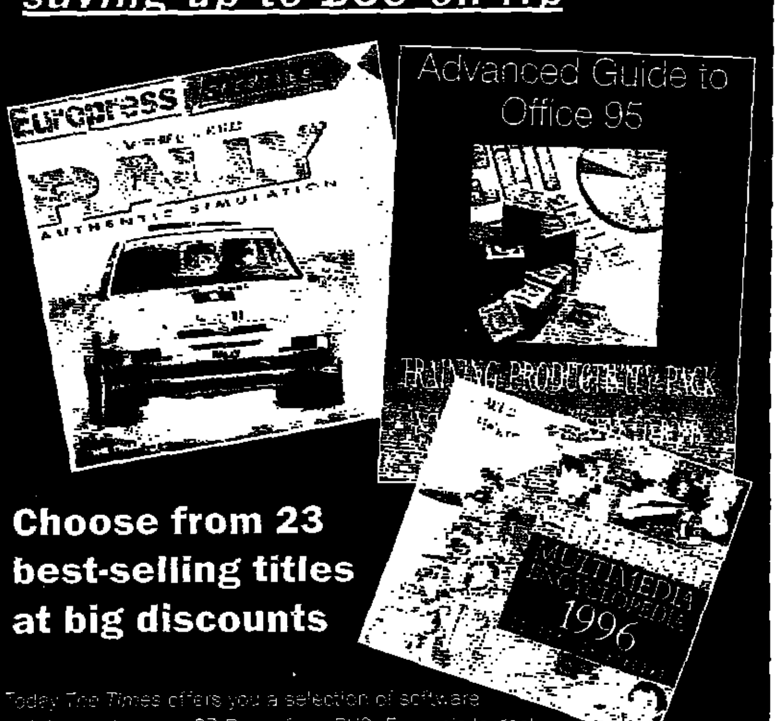
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To float or not to float, that is now a balanced question

Jason Nissé

Having cut his teeth working for Lord Hanson, Richard Yerbury knows a thing or two about saving money. In his role as chief executive of London Scottish, the rugby club, he needs to raise money to take the team forward. He may float it in a few years' time, but not now. London Scottish has found it easy enough to raise £1 million from a private placing of shares with investors.

Yerbury says that he could have raised twice the amount, and it cost him buttons. "We can say, hands on our hearts, that of the 75 pence you paid for each share, 74 pence is going straight into the business," he enthuses. London Scottish used no brokers or merchant bank, only an accountant and a lawyer to draw up the documents.

In contrast, there is Birmingham City, the struggling football club, floated on the Alternative Investment Market in February. Although it set out to raise more money — £7.5 million — the expenses are pretty astounding, too, at £350,000, or 4.7 per cent of the money raised. This was in spite of the club having no merchant bank, having a small stockbroker, Shore Capital, and having much of the reporting accountancy work completed by a small firm in Walsall.

The costs of floating, even on the AIM, are a minimum of £100,000 these days. The AIM was supposed to be a low-cost option, but the Stock Exchange became worried about possible failure and put the onus on the sponsors of the float to make sure that everything was hunky-dory. With that, came accountants and lawyers crawling over every aspect of the prospectuses and up went the expense. Often, a private placing would be a much better idea. However, it is an idea that is seldom suggested when a company asks a merchant bank for advice.

"Once you cross the threshold of a merchant bank, it is like a huge mugging exercise," says Jonathan Massing, who, after a long career in the City, now runs Kingswood, a small corporate finance boutique. "The company pay the bank fees. It brings in the reporting accountants and the lawyers and then it goes to the investing institutions, who are the people it has the real loyalty to because it is selling them deals day after day, and flogs them the shares, often as cheaply as they can to give the institutions a profit. If the company says at any point 'We don't like this', the bank says it will resign and then nobody in the City will touch you."

The disadvantages of a float go further. Most companies complain that the City is too short term, and that the share price of a company will often fluctuate wildly because of a change of opinion about the firm from a stockbroker or market-maker, rather than an actual change in the fundamental value of the company. This leaves the management constantly fretting about the share price, rather than getting on with running the company.

Then there is the level of information that has to be given out. As a private company, you can say what your profits are and who is on your board and leave it like that. However, investors want more — divisional breakdowns, key staff, salary levels and so on — and the Stock Exchange insists that if you tell one investor you have to tell everyone. So all this information becomes freely available — including to your competitors and to headhunters who will know exactly who to poach from your management and how much to tempt them with.

"I spend a great deal of my time telling clients they shouldn't float," says Glen Cooper, corporate finance director of Apax Partners, which also has a venture capital arm. "There is a lot of money out there for unquoted investment from blue chip institutions who can bring more than just cash to the party." This was shown last week when Sheffield Wednesday raised £17 million from Charterhouse Development Capital as an alternative to floating. Dave Richards, Wednesday's chairman, said: "What we need at the moment is stability, and going on to the stock market at this time would not have done that."

Glen Cooper points out that private equity is much more flexible than stock market investment, because all the things that are frowned upon in public companies — such as different classes of shares, massive share incentives to management and preference shares with unusual conversion criteria — can be used in private companies to tailor the investment to what the shareholders want to get out of it.

Ah, companies argue, there is the catch. If a venture capitalist comes in, all he wants is to float or sell the company in three years' time to crystallise the profit. Therefore going to these people is merely putting off the inevitable. However, not all venture capitalists conform to the joke that they go into a room backwards because they always want to see the exit. Some are genuinely long-term investors, and, increasingly, there are wealthy individuals willing to invest alongside, or instead of, a venture capitalist.

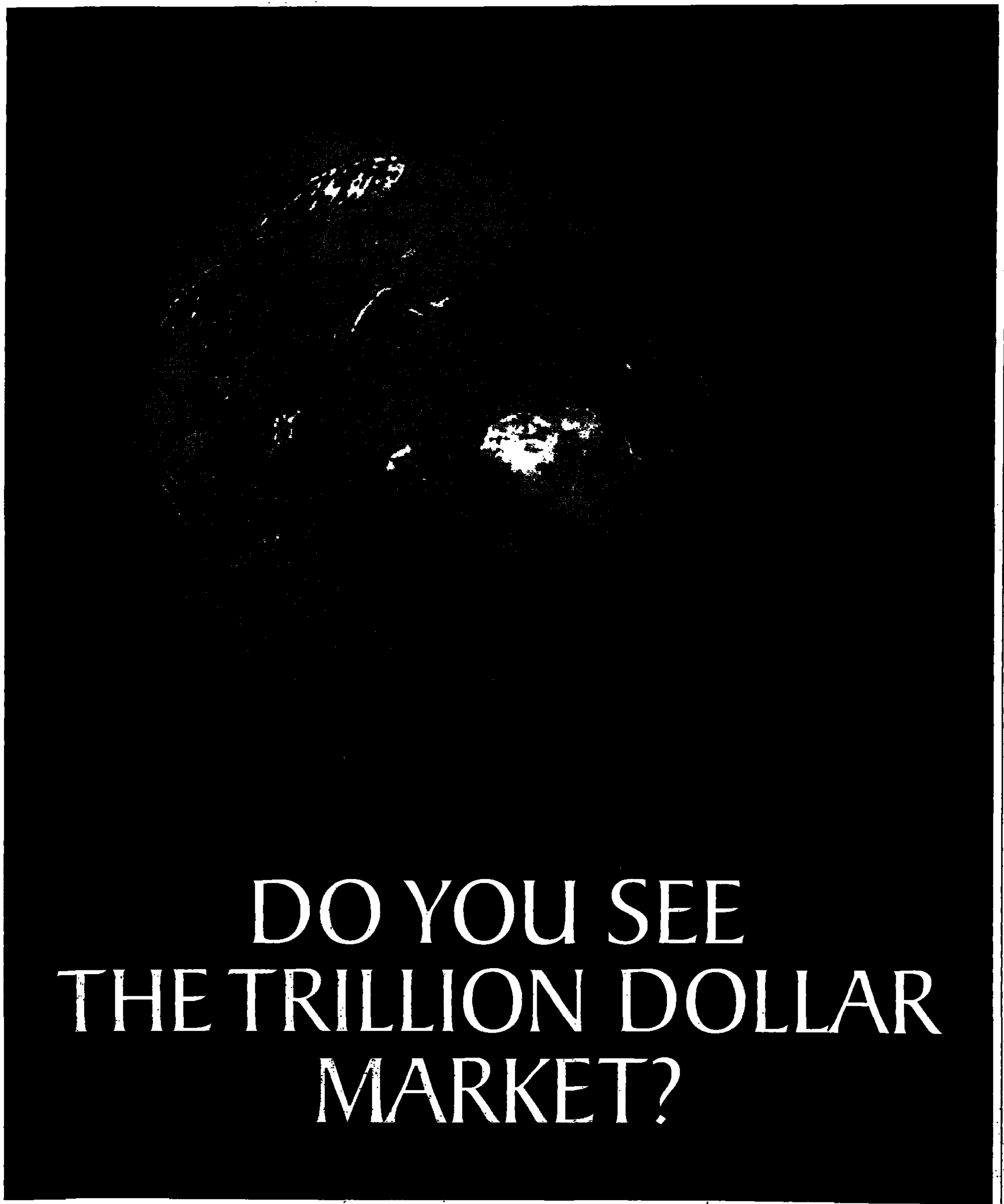
In any case, a short-term private placement is not always bad news, as Limelight, the kitchens group, proved. It needed investment capital two and a half years ago, but Stephen Boler, the group's founder, did not want to float at that point. So it placed £30 million of shares with Schroder Ventures, which cashed in a 50 per cent profit when Limelight floated last autumn. Since flotation, though, Limelight has had a rougher time, putting out a profits warning a couple of weeks ago, throwing the shares into freefall.

Also, does a company have to raise so much equity as it would in a float? If you go to a merchant bank, it will want to get you to raise as much as it can, because its fees are related to the size of a deal. However, there are many ways to skin a cat. Debt is often cheaper than equity in the long term, and there are other ways of raising short finance to invest in your company quite quickly, such as factoring, in which you sell your invoices to a company that will collect them and give you, typically, 75p in the pound.

Even some of the age-old arguments about floating can be knocked down. You need to find a market price for your shares? Look in the share price pages, find companies in a similar field and compare prices. It is just as sophisticated as the analytical work of many overpaid stockbrokers.

You want to incentivise your staff through share options? You can still do this. Merely bring in an internal market in the shares, which has worked well in companies such as Robert Fleming, the merchant bank, and Newspaper Publishing, the publisher of *The Independent* (before it ran into difficulties).

Of course, there are reasons to float. If you want to use your paper to raise money on the market and fund your expansion, then the stock market is the place to be. If you do not want to lose control of the company through dilution of your holding, and do not want to spend time preparing for half-year and full-year statements and meetings with analysts and institutions, then stay private.



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Marketing jobs top list

SENIOR executives in marketing, sales and public relations lead the recruitment tables in Europe, according to Korn-Ferry International, the world's biggest headhunting firm (Jon Ashworth writes).

Executives in these fields accounted for 30 per cent of all executive recruitment in Europe last year, followed by general managers and finance directors. Total demand for executives in Europe increased 11 per cent in 1996, compared with a 10 per cent increase worldwide.

Korn-Ferry's annual Executive Demand Index tracks executives earning $100,000 or more.

Appointments in healthcare and pharmaceuticals increased from 7 per cent of overall executive recruitment in 1995 to 10 per cent in 1996.

WALL STREET

	Mar 31 midday	Mar 27 close
AMP Inc	34	34
AMR Corp	83	84
ASA	33	33
AT & T	34	35
Abbott Labs	57	58
Advanced Micro	40	41
Aetna Life	86	87
Ahmanson (HF)	36	37
Air Prod & Chem	67	67
AirTouch Comm	23	23
Alberto-Culver B	26	27
Albertson's	34	34
Alcan Aluminm	33	33
Allied Signal	71	72
Alum Co of Am	68	68
Amax Gold Inc	6	7
Amerada Hess	53	53
Amer Brands	50	50
Amer El Power	41	41
Amer Express	61	62
Amer Genl Corp	41	41
Amer Home Pr	62	62
Amer Intl	119	121
Amer Stores	44	44
Amer Standard	44	44
Ameritech	59	61
Amoco	87	88
Anheuser-Busch	42	42
Apple Computer	19	18
Archer Daniels	18	18
Armco	4	3
Armstrng Wrld	66	66
Asarco	28	28
Atl Richfield	132	133
Auto Data Pro	42	42
Avery Dennison	39	40
Avon Products	52	53
Baker Hughes	39	40
Baltim Gas & El	26	26
Banc One	40	41
BankAmerica	107	106
Bank of NY	36	38
Bankers Tr NY	82	84
Barnett Banks	47	48
Bausch & Lomb	39	39
Baxter Intl	44	45
Becton Dickinsn	44	46
Bell Atlantic	60	59
Bell Industries	18	18
BellSouth	42	43
Black & Decker	32	32
Block (H&R)	29	29
Boeing	99	101
Boise Cascade	30	31
Bristol Myrs Sq	63	64
Browning Ferris	28	28
Brunswick	28	28
Burlington Nthn	74	76
CMS Energy Corp	32	32
CNA Financial	108	109
CPC Intl	82	83
CSX	45	46
Campbell Soup	47	47
Can Pacific	24	24
Carolina Pwr	36	36
Caterpillar	79	80
Central & SW	21	21
Champion Intl	46	45
Chase Manhat	94	96
Chevron Corp	69	69
Chrysler	30	30
Chubb Corp	54	55
Cigna Corp	147	151
Citicorp	109	110
Clorox	112	113
Coastal Corp	47	48
Coca Cola	55	57
Coca Cola Ent	60	60
Colgate-Palm	99	103
Columbia Gas	58	59
ColumbiaHCA	31	37
Compaq Comp	75	77
Comp Ass Intl	39	40
Conagra	55	55
Conrail	112	113
Cons Edison	29	29
Cons Nat Gas	50	50
Cooper Inds	43	43
Corestates	48	49
Corning Inc	44	45
Crown Cork	52	52
Dana Corp	32	33
Dayton Hudson	42	43
Deere	43	43
Delta Air Lines	84	85
Deluxe Corp	32	32
Digital Equip	27	28
Dillard Dept St	31	32
Disney (Walt)	72	75
Dominion Res	35	36
Donelley (RR)	34	34
Dover Corp	52	52
Dow Chemical	80	80
Dow Jones	41	42
Dresser	30	31
Duke Power	44	44
Dun & Brdstreet	25	25
Du Pont	106	107
Eastman Chem	53	53
Eastman Kodak	76	77

	Mar 31 midday	Mar 27 close
Eaton Corp	71	71
Edison Int	22	22
Elect Data Sys	42	42
Emerson Elec	46	47
Engelhard Corp	21	21
Enron Corp	38	38
Entergy	24	24
Ethyl Corp	8	8
Exxon	107	108
FMC Corp	62	62
FPL Group	44	44
Federal Express	52	53
First Bk Sys	74	75
First Union Rlty	13	13
Fleet Finl Grp	57	58
Fluor Corp	52	51
Ford Motor	31	30
GTE Corp	45	46
Gannett	86	88
Gap Inc Del	34	34
Gencorp	19	19
Gen Dynamics	67	68
Gen Electric	99	101
Gen Mills	62	62
Gen Motors	56	56
Gen Reinsurance	160	161
Gen Signal	38	39
Genuine Parts	47	47
Georgia Pac	74	73
Gillette	73	75
Glaxo Wellc ADR	35	35
Goodrich (BF)	37	37
Goodyear Tire	52	53
Grt Atl Pac Tea	25	25
Great Wstn Fin	40	42
Halliburton	71	71
Harcourt General	46	46
Heinz (HJ)	39	40
Hercules	41	41
Hershey Foods	51	52
Hewlett Packard	54	55
Hilton Hotels	24	24
Home Depot	54	54
Homestake Mng	14	14
Honeywell	68	70
Household Intl	86	89
Houston Inds	20	21
Humana	21	21
ITT Corp	59	59
Ikon Office	34	35
Illinois Tool	84	85
Illinova	22	23
INCO	32	33
Ingersoll Rand	44	44
Inland Steel	19	19
Intel Corp	139	139
IBM	134	137
Intl Flav & Fr	43	43
Intl Paper	40	41
James River Va	29	29
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	54	55
Kellogg	68	68
Kerr-McGee	62	63
Kimberly-Clark	107	103
Kmart	12	12
Knight-Ridder	39	40
Lilly (Eli)	87	87
Limited Inc	18	18
Lincoln Nat	53	53
Litton	40	40
Liz Claiborne	43	44
Lockheed Martin	84	84
Louisiana Pac	20	20
MCI Comm	36.4370	37
Manpower Inc	36	37
Marriott Int	50	50
Marsh & McLnn	116	117
Masco Corp	35	35
May Dept St	46	47
Maytag Corp	20	21
McDonalds	47	48
McDonnell D	60	62
McGraw Hill	50	51
Mead Corp	54	54
Medtronic	62	62
Mellon Bk	73	75
Merck Inc	86	88
Merrill Lynch	86	87
Microsoft	93	93
Minnesota Mine	85	85
Mobil Corp	131	132
Monsanto	38	38
Morgan (JP)	99	102
Motorola Inc	59	60
Natl Semi	28	28
Natl Service Ind	38	39
Navistar Intl	9	9
NY Times A	44	45
Newmont Mng	40	40
Niag Mohawk	8	8
Nike B	62	63
NL Industries	10	10
Noram Energy	14	14
Nordstrom	37	37
Norfolk Sthrn	86	88
Nthn State Pwr	47	47
Norwest Corp	46	48
Nynex Corp	45	45
Occidental Pet	24	24
Ohio Edison	21	21

	Mar 31 midday	Mar 27 close
Oracle	38	39
Oryx Energy Co	19	19
Overseas Ship	16	16
Owens Corning	40	40
PHH Corp	46	47
PPG Industries	54	54
PNC Bank	40	41
PP&L Res	20	20
Paccar Inc	66	66
Pacificorp	21	21
Pac Enterprises	30	30
Pac Telesis	36	37
Pall Corp	22	22
Parker Hannifin	42	43
Peco Energy	20	20
Penney (JC)	47	48
Pennzoil	51	52
Pepsico	32	33
Pfizer	85	87
Pharm & Upjhn	36	37
Phelps Dodge	72	72
Philip Morris	116	117
Phillips Pet	41	41
Pitney Bowes	58	58
Polaroid	39	37
Procter & Gmbl	113	117
Providian	54	55
Pub Serv E & G	26	26
Quaker Oats	36	37
Ralston Purina	79	80
Raychem Corp	82	84
Raytheon	44	45
Reebok Intl	46	46
Reynolds Metals	63	62
Rockwell Intl	64	65
Rohm & Haas	74	74
Royal Dutch	174	176
Rubbermaid	24	24
SBC Comms	51	51
Safeco Corp	40	40
St Paul's Cos	66	67
Salomon Inc	51	52
Sara Lee Corp	41	42
Schering Plough	74	76
Schlumberger	111	111
Seagram	38	38
Sears Roebuck	50	51
Shell Trans	104	105
Sherwin Wllms	55	55
Skyline Corp	22	22
Snap-On-Tools	39	39
Southern Co	21	21
Sprint Corp	45	46
Stanley Works	38	38
Sun Company	25	26
Sun Microsys	28	29
Suntrust	46	48
Supervalu	30	30
Sysco Corp	34	34
TRW Inc	52	52
TCC Inds	1	1
Tandem Comp	11	11
Tandy Corp	50	50
Temple Inland	52	53
Tenneco	39	39
Texaco	107	107
Texas Inst	75	77
Texas Utilities	34	34
Textron	102	103
Time Warner	43	44
Times-Mirror A	56	57
Timken	54	54
Torchmark	56	56
Toys R Us	28	28
Transamerica	89	90
Travelers	49	50
Tribune	41	42
Tyco Intl	56	56
UST Inc	27	28
UAL	66	67
US Inds	35	35
US West Comm	33	33
US West Media	18	19
USAirways Group	24	24
USX Marathon	27	27
Unicom	19	20
Unilever NV	188	190
Union Camp	47	47
Union Carbide	44	45
Union Pacific	57	58
Unisys Corp	6	6
USF&G Corp	21	21
US Life	46	46
United Tech	75	78
Unocal Corp	38	38
VF Corp	67	67
WMX Tech	30	31
Wal-Mart Stores	28	29
Warner-Lambert	87	89
Wells Fargo	285	292
Westinghouse El	18	18
Weyerhaeuser	45	45
Whirlpool	48	48
Whitman	24	24
Winn Dixie	33	33
Woolworth	23	23
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	58	58
Xerox	57	56
Yellow Corp	18	18.8120

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *28*

ABNEGATE

(c) Deny oneself. From the Latin *ab-* away + *negāre* to deny. Not a particularly useful word. But it is important not to confuse it with similar words: *abrogate* (repeal), *derogate* (detract), *abdicate* (renounce), and *arrogate* (claim). English is a tricky lottery.

SAPOROUS

(b) Tasty or flavoursome. Not to be confused with *saponaceous*, which means soapy. Both derived from the Latin words. When the couple who regard themselves as two of the Beautiful People make their carefully timed entrance, you exclaim admiringly: "Oh, how delightful! The marriage of the saporous with the saponaceous!" And leave them to look up the words in a dictionary after the evening is over, and work out which term you were applying to which person.

BOTHAN

(c) A booth or hut. More particularly, one that is used as an illegal drinking den. "Do you always have to turn the bathroom into your personal bothan, Andrew?"

PARACME

(a) Over the top. The stage after one's acme or peak, when decline, senescence and Alzheimer's set in. From the Greek for past the peak. "What a remarkable paper, Professor. You have been at the paracme of your powers ever since I have known you."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rg1+ Kh6 2 Qe3 and 3 f5+ follows with devastating effect.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاعلى

Tesco to offer credit card and seek bank licence

MacLaurin: cash machines

By Sarah Cunningham

TESCO PERSONAL FINANCE, the new banking operation established by Tesco and Royal Bank of Scotland, is set to launch its first major product, the Tesco credit card, in July and is likely to seek a full banking licence in the next few months.

Derek Sach, named yesterday by Tesco and RBS as chief executive of the joint venture, said that negotiations are under way with the main operators in the credit card field to find a partner. Other products will follow in quick succession. "Our aim is to develop Tesco Personal Finance into a meaningful business very quickly, providing a full range of personal finance services and products," he said.

Own-brand Tesco cash machines will begin to appear in stores this year and special areas set aside for personal finance will be tested in the next few months and extended throughout the chain in 1998. The banking operation employs 40 people, a number that will rise to around 1,000 next year.

Mr Sach, 48, has an unusual background for the retail banking job. He was formerly managing director of 3i, the venture capital group, and in 1992 joined Royal Bank of Scotland, where he ran the risk management and corporate recovery operations. Rowley Ager, 51, Tesco's company secretary, is to be chairman of the new venture.

Ahead of the credit card launch, Tesco, whose chairman is Lord MacLaurin, is to add new features to its Clubcard Plus loyalty card scheme. Cardholders, who can now use their cards only in Tesco stores, are likely to be able to use them elsewhere and in some automatic teller machines. Insurance and savings products, made available through links with Scottish Widows and Direct Line, will follow.

Tesco Personal Finance, in which both sides are to invest an initial £20 million to £25 million, will at first operate under the RBS banking licence. A separate licence is likely to be sought from the Bank of England later this year so that it can take decisions and act as a separate bank.

Supermarkets, looking for ways of increasing their share in the highly competitive grocery market, have been stampeding into retail banking. Sainsbury's Bank, a joint venture between J Sainsbury and Bank of Scotland, is already up and running while Safeway has formed an alliance with Abbey National and Wm Morrison with the Midland. Asda has so far not gone into banking.

Higher tax rate on insurance from today

By Marianne Curphey, Insurance Correspondent

HOLIDAYMAKERS, householders and motorists face higher bills for insurance policies with the introduction today of a rise in insurance premium tax (IPT) of up to 15 per cent.

The increase was announced in the Budget in November. All travel insurance policies sold by travel agents will be subject to IPT at 17.5 per cent.

Travel policies sold by other providers, including insurance companies, brokers, banks and building societies, will be subject to IPT at a rate of 4 per cent, as will motor and household policies.

The move will hit the travel industry hard. Some high street companies make up to 40 per cent commission when they sell policies alongside a package holiday.

The Association of British Insurers, whose 440 members opposed the increase in IPT, said the travel trade was likely to offer "free" insurance to holidaymakers in order to reduce the tax to 4 per cent. However, a spokesman added: "In the end, it will be the customer who has to foot the bill."

At present travel agents sell more than 75 per cent of all travel policies as a direct add-on to holiday bookings. Many require holidaymakers to take out compulsory travel insurance to qualify for a discount on the price of their package.

Keith Betton, spokesman for the Association of British Travel Agents, said the discrepancy in rates was totally unjustified.

He added: "We would be happy if the IPT rate was increased to a flat 17.5 per cent for everyone, but we object to being singled out. It may be that the travel industry subsidises the cost of insurance by increasing the cost of the holiday."

The move to increase IPT was vehemently opposed by the insurance industry, which believes that a future Chancellor will raise the tax further.

Although the industry greeted the introduction of IPT with dismay, the public has, so far, paid up without complaint. The tax applies to all general insurance except life assurance or pensions.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, defended the rise in the tax on the ground that the insurance industry was undertaxed compared with those in other European countries. Insurers believe that the Chancellor would like to bring the tax up to the same level as VAT at 17.5 per cent for all classes of insurance.

The Assocation of British Insurers has lobbied long and hard for the tax to be scrapped or frozen at current levels.

Partners pursues flotation

By Sarah Cunningham

PARTNERS Holdings, the stationery retailer, plans to float on the London Stock Exchange next month through a placing that it hopes will raise up to £7 million and value the company at around £25 million.

Most of the cash will be invested in new point of sale technology, a new headquarters and warehouse and an expansion from 80 to 220 branches.

Up to £1.5 million will be shared by three directors, Michael Scorey, chairman; Peter Davey, chief executive; and Phillip Birt, finance director. Between them, they own 53 per cent of the company.

Partners' branches, selling mainly personal stationery, are in the North West, Midlands and Home Counties. The expansion will be over the next four years.

Mr Davey said: "Partners has exploited a niche created by the traditional high street retailers of personal stationery who are now concentrating on other products. We have grown our market share to 2.06 per cent of a £1.4 billion market."

In the year to March 30, 1996, the company made a pre-tax profit of £1.17 million. In the following 40 weeks, to January 4, profit rose to £1.68 million. Turnover has grown from £19.7 million in 1993-94 to £27 million in 1995-96.

Weight watch: the most recent UK study classified 16.5 per cent of women as obese

Obesity places heavy burden on the NHS

By Paul Durman

A NEW pressure group claims that a dramatic increase in the number of British adults suffering from obesity is costing the National Health Service hundreds of millions of pounds a year.

The International Obesity Task Force (IOTF) says that the problem costs developed nations between 2 and 8 per cent of their national health budgets. The IOTF's first newsletter states: "This represents a major fraction of national healthcare budgets comparable with, for example, the total cost of cancer therapy."

Richard Palmer, chief executive of Alizyme, a British company that is trying to develop drugs to tackle weight problems, estimated that the cost of obesity in the UK was probably about 4 per cent.

With the NHS budget set at £33 billion, that implies an annual cost of £1.3 billion.

The IOTF says that over the past ten years the UK has suffered a worse rise in obesity than any other country in Europe.

The most recent UK study, in 1995, classified 15 per cent of men and 16.5 per cent of women as obese. That is still better than in the US, where about one in five men and one in four women have serious weight problems.

Dr Palmer said: "We need to get the healthcare community to recognise that this is not just a failure of people to live their lives properly. There's actually a disease and medical condition there with a sound medical basis to it. It needs to be taken into account when providing healthcare in the future."

Alizyme is working with Oxford Molecular to develop a lipase inhibitor, a drug that would work by reducing the amount of fat the body can absorb from food.

Companies support Britain's place in Europe

By Chris Ayres

LABOUR yesterday applauded a survey that found that nearly three quarters of companies support Britain's place in the European Union, and claimed it exposed the dangers of Conservative divisions on Europe.

The survey, conducted by Reed Personnel Services, a leading recruitment company, questioned 553 British businesses and discovered that 70 per cent of them believed that Britain would benefit most from staying in the European Union.

Margaret Beckett, Shadow Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said: "This survey is overwhelming evidence that the business community recognises the need for Britain to play a constructive role in Europe and recognises also the danger to prosperity and jobs if we were to leave the European Union. It shows the dangers to which Tory divisions on Europe expose Britain — risking 3.5 million jobs."

The survey also found that support for the European Union varied greatly in different regions. In the Midlands, 88 per cent of companies were in favour of the European Union, compared with only 35 per cent in the South West.

Larger companies were also more likely to support the idea of staying in Europe. Only 20 per cent of organisations that employed more than 5,000 people wanted Britain to leave the European Union.

Labour was given another boost yesterday, with the publication of a report that says a national minimum wage would improve work incentives and could lift families out of the poverty trap.

The report, produced by economists at Cambridge University and published by the Employment Policy Institute, criticises the current system of subsidising low pay with means-tested benefits.

It says that in some cases a rise in a family's earnings can be completely cancelled out by higher tax and reduced benefits.

The report argues that a minimum wage should be complemented by non-means-tested benefits and a more progressive tax system.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Estate agents predict rise in house prices

THE traditional spring surge of new properties coming on to the market has begun early this year, according to a survey by the Birmingham Midshires Building Society to be published today. The Birmingham Midshires/ICM Housing Monitor shows four out of five UK estate agents are now confident that the market is gathering pace and they expect prices to rise 6 per cent this year. They say that house prices have steadied over the past six months, but are still 10 per cent higher than a year ago. According to the Nationwide Building Society price index for March, published last week, prices were up 9.6 per cent over the year and 1.6 per cent in the month, the biggest monthly rise in two years. The Halifax is due to publish its own findings for March today.

According to Birmingham Midshires, the biggest price rises are expected in London, at 10.7 per cent, and the South East, 7.8 per cent. In Scotland, a rise of just 2.52 per cent is forecast. Demand is heaviest for three and four-bedroom homes, but estate agents are finding one-bedroomed properties difficult to sell, with first-time buyers going straight on to two and three-bedroomed properties. In London, seven out of ten estate agents said gazumping has become a problem.

Diamond prospect

RTZ and De Beers may be invited to join local mining companies to exploit the giant Lomonosov diamond field near Arkhangelk in northern Russia, which is estimated to be worth as much as $12 billion. Vitaly Fortygin, general manager of Severalmaz, which owns the licence for the field, said he was considering working with foreign partners. This is despite opposition to foreign involvement from the Russian Parliament.

Salehurst seeks £2m

SALEHURST, the specialist paper supplier, yesterday said that it intended to raise £2 million through a placing on the stock market. The company, which is expected to be valued at between £15 million and £18 million, will use some of the money to develop its stock management software package. About £2.5 million of existing shares will be sold in the placing, leaving Michael Jackson, the group's founder and chief executive, with about 60 per cent of the company's equity.

BA Ryder deal complete

BRITISH AIRWAYS yesterday completed the transfer of its fleet management and maintenance services to Ryder, the vehicle rental and distribution services company based in Slough. The deal comes after four months of consultation with staff and trade unions. Of British Airways's 486 original fleet management staff, 415 will move to Ryder. The remainder have accepted offers of early retirement, voluntary severance or jobs elsewhere in British Airways.

Tricorder acquisition

TRICORDER TECHNOLOGY, the company which created a Department of Trade and Industry award-winning 3D scanner, has announced the acquisition of 3D Research for an undisclosed sum. Tricorder also priced its offer for subscription on Ofex at 70p per share. The share issue will raise £3 million, valuing the company at £10 million. Sumitomo Corporation has already declared an interest in the distribution rights for Tricorder's scanner for Japan and the Far East.

Phone service launched

M1, the new Singapore mobile phone operator partly owned by Cable and Wireless, will today launch the first rival mobile phone service to Singapore Telecom, which is state owned. Customers will be offered a range of tariffs, and services such as voice mail and call barring. More than 16,000 customers have used M1's service on a trial basis since December.

Dogfight for sales

AIRBUS could be in line to sell as many as 12 new aircraft to Silkair, the regional division of Singapore Airlines. However, it faces stiff competition from Boeing, which is believed to be the favourite because of its greater variety. It is not known how much the deal will be worth as negotiations are still going on. A final decision will be made this month.

Business failure rate drops

By Chris Ayres

THE number of businesses going bust in Britain has dropped by a tenth, according to Dun & Bradstreet, the business information group.

In the first quarter of this year there were 10,329 business failures, compared with 11,430 in the first quarter of last year.

Philip Mellor, of Dun and Bradstreet, said: "The latest figures are most encouraging after an upturn in the business failure rate during the last quarter of last year. We had feared that an increase in company liquidations might bring down a host of smaller-firm bankruptcies in their wake.

"This has not happened yet, but with the business climate being so competitive, it remains to be seen if the decline in business failures continues throughout the year." Dun and Bradstreet says that the drop has been caused mainly by a 13.7 per cent fall in the number of larger companies going into liquidation.

However, the drop in business failures is spread unevenly, with every region having a decline except the West Midlands. The largest drops were in the East Midlands (27.4 per cent) and Scotland (25.5 per cent).

Stock market issues reduced to a trickle

MONEY raised by new issues on the main stock market slumped to £246 million in the first quarter, a fraction of the £2.02 billion raised by the market's debutantes in the last three months of 1996 (Fraser Nelson writes).

A survey by KPMG Corporate Finance shows that the 20 flotations this year averaged £14 million (£96 million, 1996 first quarter). Almost all were placings, as the number of introductions fell to a low of three. For the first time since records began no companies tried offers for subscription on the main market.

Neil Austin, head of new issues at KPMG, blamed pre-election market uncertainty. He said: "There will almost certainly be a short hiatus after polling day, but activity should soon pick up again."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Middleton trades down

GOOD to hear that Peter Middleton is happily back in the saddle. With 15 months under his belt as chief executive of Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank, the former monk is enjoying his most recent purchase — a Yamaha 650cc Virago motorcycle. Middleton might have traded down from the Suzuki 850cc he acquired during his Lloyd's of London days, but the new beast is fine for trips about town with Anita, his young wife. "It's a terrific bike — it will still do 70 miles per hour," he says, somewhat tongue in cheek. "Anita likes it as well. We go shopping on it." They biked to the England v Italy football game recently, and used it for last year's Three Tenors concert. The trip took less time than than the Middletons anticipated. "We were there at seven o'clock with about four other people."

Ticked off

CLOCKS may have been put forward the length and breadth of Britain on Sunday, but bosses at Yorkshire Electricity chose to go back in time. The company sent out a press notice offering customers extended meter reading hours to take advantage of the lighter nights. In an embarrassing display of crossed wires, however, the notice informed customers that clocks were going back thanks to British Summer Time.

Slipped Tup

PAUL McKINLEY, general manager of the Tup Inns chain of trendy pubs, almost missed the boat to his own wedding reception at the weekend. Married in Mexico earlier this year, the groom was expected in France on Good Friday, where his wife Zoe was busy organising a bunfight for 120 guests. Already behind schedule, McKinley jumped on his motorbike, raced from London to the South Coast, and lost his passport along the way. Ever resourceful, McKinley charmed his way on to a ferry, but will he ever make it back?

It all adds up: some comic relief from Alan Greenspan

Fun at the Fed

ALAN GREENSPAN, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, and Arthur Levitt, his counterpart at the SEC, were playing golf at the Chevy Chase Club. According to The Washington Post, Greenspan told a joke: three patients at a mental institution wanted to be released. The head psychiatrist gave them a simple test. What is two plus two? The first patient said "five". The second said "Wednesday". The third said "four", and was free to go. "By the way," said the doctor as the man was leaving, "how did you know the answer?" "Easy," said the patient. "I just added five plus Wednesday." As simple as Greenspan's economic theories.

Going Dutch

BANKERS with a social conscience? ING Group has set up an advisory council on social and strategic matters. As a sounding board for the group's overall strategic development, and for monitoring developments within society across the globe. Twelve of its 15 members, drawn from "various sectors of society", are Dutch. Sir William Ryrie, vice-chairman of ING Barings, is the only one to hail from the United Kingdom. I am told that only expenses will be paid for the members.

ASDA is encouraging its customers to dig deep into their borders, if not their pockets. With the daffodils out and the grass growing, the gardening departments of the supermarket chain are going VAT-free from yesterday to the end of the week.

MORAG PRESTON

THE TIMES & DILLONS
An evening of poetry
with SEAMUS HEANEY and TED HUGHES
Ted Hughes
Seamus Heaney

READERS of The Times are invited to an evening with two of the most celebrated contemporary poets, Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes, on Monday, April 14, at 7.30pm, at the Institute of Education in London.

The Times/Dillons Evening of Poetry marks the publication of Heaney and Hughes' new poetry anthology, The School Bag (Faber, £20 hard, £12.99 soft), a companion volume to their highly successful The Rattle Bag.

The poets will be introduced by Peter Stothard, Editor of The Times, and will then read from their selection, which includes works from all periods of English poetry, from the earliest Anglo-Saxon to the epoch-making poets of the 20th century.

Tickets are £10 (£7.50 concessions for OAPs, students and unemployed, subject to ID), which includes £2 off copies of the hardback edition of The School Bag. To book, call Dillons on 0171-467 1613, fax the coupon below on 0171-467 1690, e-mail orders@gower.dillons.org.uk or post the coupon with remittance.

THE TIMES/DILLONS EVENING OF POETRY

Please send me.......... ticket(s) at £10 each (£7.50 concessions) for The Times/Dillons Evening of Poetry on Monday, April 14, at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1.

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Carl Mortished on how a treaty boosted Cairn

Oil group to extract gas from troubled water

In December, Bangladesh and India signed an historic agreement, bringing to an end a 20-year battle over the right to extract water from the Ganges, a lifeline for both countries, flowing from the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal. Thousands of miles away in London, news of the settlement caused the share price of a minor oil and gas company to spring into life. For several months it had hovered at 350p, but over the next fortnight Cairn Energy gained almost a pound and since then has shot up a further £2, a rise of 85 per cent in three months.

Beneath the Ganges Delta, there are sedimentary rocks that contain oil and gas deposits. But their value has been obscured by the row between the two countries about resources on the surface. It began two decades ago, when India built a dam, diverting water during the dry season to Calcutta, in order to remove silt from its port. In Bangladesh, the lost water was threatening the livelihoods of 30 million farmers, souring relations with India and causing mass migrations.

The 30-year treaty should open the door to another prize. Without agreement over water, the huge gas reserves in the Bay of Bengal might never find their way to power stations in India. Less than five years ago, Cairn Energy was a penny stock, a £6 million Scottish oil explorer that emerged from the stable of Ivory & Sime, the fund manager. Today it is worth a billion pounds and the reason is water, gas and the huge risk taken by Bill Gammell, Cairn's chief executive, in Bangladesh.

Gammell set up Cairn Energy Management in the late 1970s and ten years later reversed the company into Caledonian Offshore Oil, later listing the group and changing its name to Cairn Energy. In 1992 the company raised £6 million in a one-for-one share issue at 27p, securing the backing of a small number of important shareholders, including Mercury Asset Management.

Gammell is an all-or-nothing man; he describes Cairn's strategy as "grow or go". Any asset that cannot be made to grow is shed and the philosophy was applied ruthlessly, selling North Sea assets when Gammell realised Cairn could make no impact without being an operator. Likewise, Cairn's Gulf of Mexico assets were spun off via a £42 million flotation and listing on Nasdaq.

The key event in Cairn's fortunes was when Gammell met Michael Watts, whose company Holland Sea Search had been prospecting for oil in South-East Asia. Watts was looking for a partner to acquire acreage in Bangladesh.

According to Watts, gas is an old story in Bangladesh but development has been hampered by political upheavals and the perception that the prize isn't worth the risk. Shell had done extensive surveys of the country, but left in the 1980s. A military, left-wing government was not friendly to big oil companies: no one believed there was a domestic market for the gas and the prospects offshore were thought too risky. But in 1991 Bangladesh held democratic elections. Two years later it had its first licensing round. To the delight of Gammell and Watts, the majors did not turn up and the field was clear for Cairn and Holland Sea Search. "The big boys said they would not drill wildcats unless they could export," explains Gammell. "Commercially, it was seen as difficult. Petrobangla, the state oil company, was the only buyer." They jointly picked up blocks 15 and 16, one of which contained a known gas discovery. The acreage was huge, equivalent to 75 North Sea blocks and seismic surveys suggested the geological trend that had produced gasfields onshore continued offshore. Cairn was convinced it could replicate the one in two success rate of the onshore exploration in its offshore blocks. In 1995 Cairn took control of its partner Holland Sea Search in a £17 million share offer, a transaction that gave Cairn 100 per cent control over both blocks, a deal which today looks absurdly cheap.

Cairn's problem was that it had assets, but no cash to exploit them. It needed funds to drill a wildcat well in Bangladesh and Gammell was desperate not to give away any upside. "The key to Cairn is to take bold positions," he said, but good sense in the oil industry dictates that risk is shared. In December 1995, Cairn's board was about to invite a partner to help to fund the £5 million cost of the Sangu-1 well, 35 miles southwest of the port of Chittagong. Gammell said: "I was determined that we should drill the well on our own. But it is unheard of in the oil and gas industry. Only the big boys drill wells on their own."

So Gammell went to the City for money. A share placing with Mercury Asset Management raised £4.5 million, worth about 5 per cent of the company. The well was a success: the Sangu field contains more than a trillion cubic feet of gas, about four times the size of typical oil or gas discoveries in mature North Sea provinces.

Having bagged his quarry, Gammell was prepared to talk to partners. Sangu transformed the perception of Bangladesh and Cairn's share price doubled. Gammell believes that on a low-risk basis, there are at least three or four more Sangu-sized gasfields to be discovered. Last July Cairn brought in Halliburton, the US oil services group, which took a quarter share of Sangu in return for providing half of the development costs for a 40-mile pipeline to Chittagong.

But this is only the beginning, as Cairn is contemplating an even bigger joint venture with Shell. Bangladesh is one of the world's poorest countries with per capita income in 1993 of $1,290. Only 15 per cent of the country has access to electricity and even at current consumption there is a gas supply shortfall of 150 million cubic feet (mcf) per day. Bangladesh is liberalising its economy under World Bank tutelage, growing at a steady 4 per cent a year and could easily absorb the supply from a further two or three Sangu fields. Moreover, Cairn is getting a decent price for its gas. Cairn's production-sharing contract with Petrobangla is struck at more than $2 per thousand cubic feet, compared with $1.40 per mcf in the North Sea.

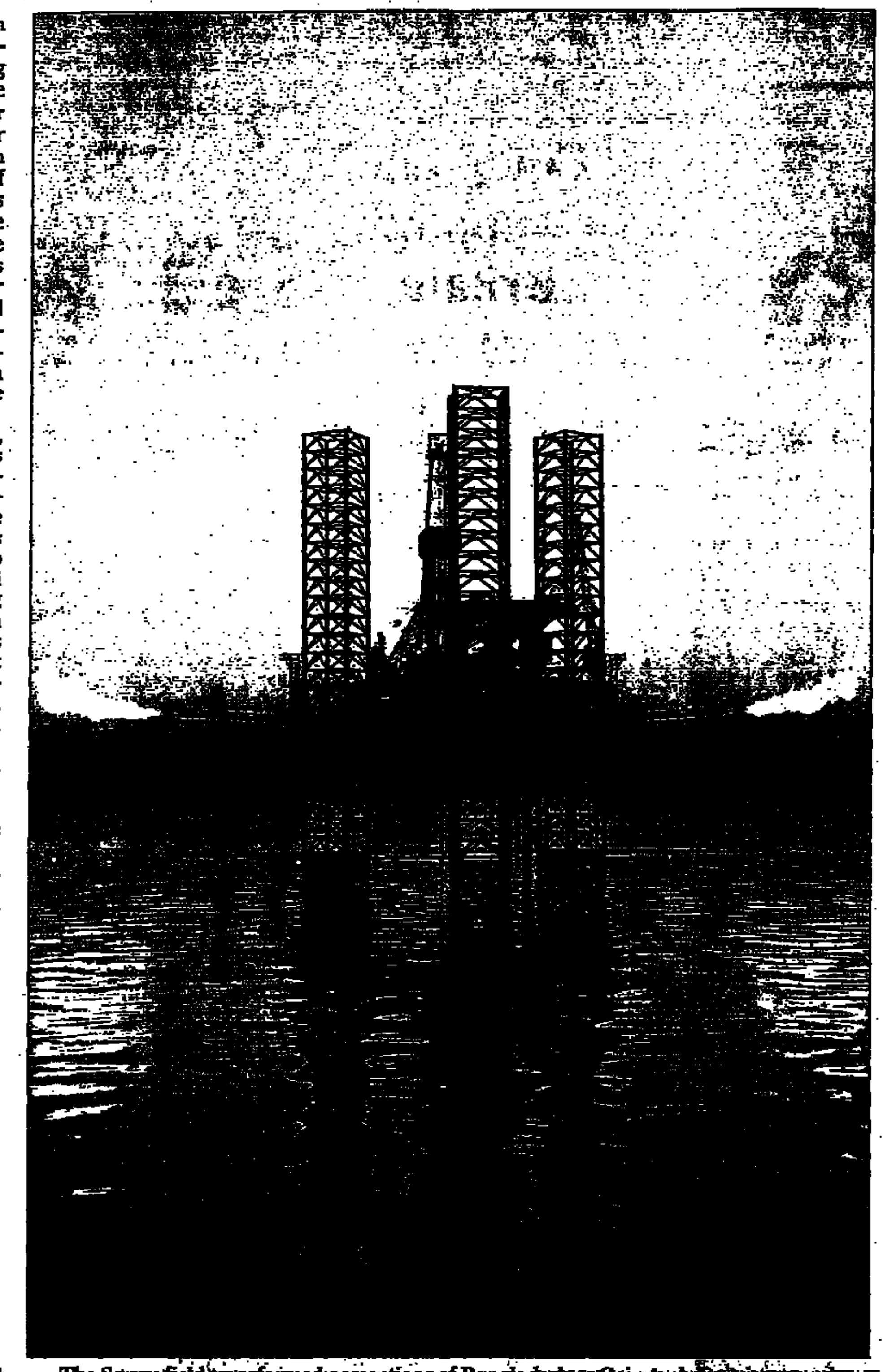
But Shell's interest in Cairn and Bangladesh has a much wider remit. The oil major could well bid alongside Cairn in the country's second oil licensing round. Bids must be submitted in July and this time there will be long queues at the door. The prize is bigger, not only because of Cairn's success, but also because of the prospect of gas exports to its rapidly industrialising neighbour.

India is crying out for gas. The country intends to import liquefied natural gas at $4 per mcf. Such prices make a pipeline across the Bay of Bengal, the natural route to rapidly expanding cities like Madras, a highly attractive proposition. For projects of this magnitude, Cairn would need the financial clout and expertise of Shell, but Shell also needs Cairn. As Gammell explains, smaller companies like Cairn can present a more friendly face to governments in developing countries than the big multinationals. "There is possibly the apprehension of intimidation. I suspect the culture is different in a large company."

Cairn has already got a toehold in India, producing 6 per cent of its oil production since the takeover of Command, the Australian company, last year, placing the Ravva field under Cairn's control. The pieces of Cairn's South Asian energy play are coming together, but they are not quite complete. Doubters question whether Cairn will find enough Sangu-sized fields to justify exports and whether the political climate in Delhi and Dacca that resolved the water dispute will endure. There is also the key question of Shell's pound of flesh, which is likely to be larger than the mere opportunity to partner Cairn in the forthcoming licensing round.

Gammell is bemused by those who think Cairn's share price is frothy. Asked whether he is worried about the price, he says: "You mean the risk of a bid?" Pressed further, he explains: "The share price is higher than the value of what you can touch, but in a year's time it may look cheap."

Past performance would suggest he is right, but Cairn seems to have enjoyed more than its share of luck. However, Bangladesh has not recently been blessed with good fortune. Perhaps Cairn is simply dipping into the luck of this impoverished country which, having secured the village water supply, might now be able to bring light into homes.



The Sangu field transformed perceptions of Bangladesh as Cairn's share price soared

Computer crime costs business £200m each year

By Marianne Curphey, Insurance Correspondent

A NEW breed of sophisticated, computer-literate criminal is preying on UK banks and big businesses and costing firms hundreds of millions of pounds every year.

Skilled in information technology and adept at stealing by stealth, professional gangs specialise in breaking into businesses each time new equipment is installed.

The Association of British Insurers calculates that computer crime costs businesses £200 million a year. The Home Office estimates that the combination of lost equipment and business interruption after such crimes costs the United Kingdom economy £1 billion every year.

The growth in fraud, theft and computer crime is fuelled by the high resale value of hardware and computer chips. The latter can fetch up to 80 per cent of their original value on the black market.

A new survey by Aon, the international insurer, has found that computer crime is now one of the biggest threats to large private and public organisations.

Ernst & Young found recently that international fraud by their own staff was costing companies billions of dollars every year. One insurer lost £200 million on just one act of fraud by an employee of a large client.

Ernst & Young found that 94 per cent of firms feel vulnerable to computer crime. Such is the scale of the problem that one computer on the Internet is broken into every 20 seconds.

As companies move towards "paperless" offices and electronic diaries, managers regard computer crime as seriously as they do fire, business interruption, health and safety liability and environmental risks.

David Robertson, who conducted the research among 2,000 companies on behalf of Aon, said thieves targeted computer chips because they were light and easy to conceal.

"There is some indication that criminals, who originally stole computer hardware from London firms, are switching to the theft of computer chips and to cities outside London because of the random checks the police make on vans entering the Square Mile," he said.

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TELEVISION CHOICE

A double helping of fame

Fame and Fortune
Channel 5, 8.00pm

This "initimate glimpse into the lifestyles of the rich and famous" is a television echo of *Hello!* magazine. Michael Caine, Ivana Trump and Lennox Lewis are lined up for future programmes but we kick off with a double helping of celebrity in the glamorous shapes of Eva Herzigova and Tico Torres. Hers is the bust in the Wonderbra ads and he is the drummer from the Bon Jovi rock band. Last year they got married in what the commentary calls a fairytale wedding. We meet them in Palm Beach, Florida. There is to be a party to celebrate an exhibition of Tico's paintings. The commentary tells us it will be a glittering event and that Eva's dress will be stunning. Facing the camera in their everyday clothes, the couple are not great conversationalists but they are there for what they are, not what they say.

Timewatch: Forgotten Allies
BBC2, 9.30pm

Delving into a little-known corner of the Second World War, Paul Elston's film is a tribute to the Karen hill tribe of Burma. When the Japanese invaded in 1942, the majority of Burmese were only too happy to throw off the British colonial oppressor. The Karen, many of them Christians, were an exception. They fought with the Allies and played an important part in the final defeat of the Japanese. But veterans of the campaign are bitter that their loyalty to Britain was not repaid. When Burma became independent, the Karens, who were hoping to set up their own state, were ruthlessly crushed. The Attlee Government is accused of standing by and allowing it to happen. The Karens have been involved in a civil war with the Burmese regime ever since. Many have recently fled and are refugees in Thailand.

Witness: Babies Behind Bars
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The cameras enter Askham Grange Open Prison for women near York where more than half the inmates are mothers. Some have had their babies while inside, others gave birth on the outside. The difficulties of combining motherhood and a prison sentence are the subject of Jane Beckwith's documentary. The film does not try to judge. Some will say the women bring it on themselves. Against that, it is rightly pointed out that male prisoners do not face the same problems. What nobody disputes is that Askham Grange promotes a caring regime. For women whose babies are with them there are special facilities which seem adequate, even generous. But material comfort cannot compensate for emotional stress, particuarly when at 18 months the babies leave the prison to be cared for elsewhere.

Murder reconstructed (BBC1, 10.30pm)

Rough Justice: Murder in the Studio
BBC1, 10.30pm

For its 25th case of alleged miscarriage, the *Rough Justice* team turns to the killing of a young woman in a night club in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1989. Penny Laing, aged 19, died after a piece of broken glass severed her jugular vein. Steven Craven was convicted of murder and is serving life. Craven had done his best to attract suspicion. He ran from the night club with a bleeding finger, dodged the police and gave a false name and address to the hospital where he had the wound treated. Two days later he flew to New York. But the programme seeks to show that the case against Craven was circumstantial and sometimes contradictory. It accuses the police of so convincing themselves of his guilt that they ignored other leads and says that potentially crucial evidence was not disclosed to the defence.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

The Sound of Masks
Radio 3, 9.25pm

In some way or other, Sir Peter Hall simply *had* to be involved with this series about the role masks played in the evolution of theatre. It was Hall's production of the *Oresteia* at the Olivier Theatre, London, in 1982 that had all the actors wearing masks, as they did in Ancient Greece. It didn't please everybody, but it was a bold attempt to get back to basics. Neither Hall as presenter, nor any of his contributors tonight has anything but praise for masks and what they contribute to an actor's interpretation of a role and the spectator's feeling of involvement. I liked Hall's equating of the tragic actor's mask with the welder's: "It enables you to do something so white hot that you would not dare look at it without using the mask."

Steps in Time
Radio 3, 10.05pm

In music quizzes, there are memory-teasers designed to drain the blood from a contestant's cheeks. One of them is: "Can you name all the French composers who made up Les Six?". You'll need to remember only one of them to make the connection between Les Six and the ballet music which the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Singers, under Barry Wordsworth, performs tonight. The composer? Francis Poulenc. The ballet? *Les Biches*. The delightful score was commissioned by Diaghilev for his semi-legendary ballet company, and it brings to an end John Drummond's series about the fabulous impresario. We hear *all* of *Les Biches*, including the choral bits that are usually dropped.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe returns with Lard **9.00** Dave Pearce **12.00** Jo Whiley, includes at **1.15pm** the Net **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Kevin Greening **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq **8.30** John Peel **10.30** Mary Ann Hobbs **1.00am** Claire Sturgess **4.00** Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Hayes over Britain **8.30** As Time Goes By (3/13) **9.00** Forever in Blue Jeans **10.00** Explorer II with Tom Baker (4/6) **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Charles Nove **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme, includes Racing Preview **9.00** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.35** The Tuesday Match introduced by Simon Mann. Includes a look ahead to the weekend's World Cup qualifying matches **9.30** The Galloping Major **10.00** Brian Hayes Election Night **12.00** After Hours with Vincent Hanna **2.00am** Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. **5.30am** Europe Today **7.15** The World Today **7.30** Policy and Prejudice **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** My Generation **9.10** Pause for Thought **9.15** A Cry in the Dark **9.30** Everywoman **10.00** World Business Report **10.15** The Making of Hamlet **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Sport **11.30** On Screen **12.30pm** Policy and Prejudice **1.05** Business Report **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** Health Matters **1.30** Sport **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Multitrack **4.05** Sport **4.15** A Cry in the Dark **4.30** The Greenfield Collection **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Worold Business Report **5.45** Britain Today **6.15** The World Today **6.30** Science Update **6.45** Sport **7.30** One Planet **8.01** Outlook **8.25** Pause for Thought **8.30** Megamix **10.05** Business **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian **11.30** The World Today **11.45** Sport **12.05am** Outlook **12.30** Megamix **1.30** The Farming World **1.45** Britain Today **2.30** Discovery **3.15** Sport **3.30** Meridian Live **4.05** Business **4.15** Sport **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **7.00** Mike Read **10.00** Henry Kelly **1.00pm** Concerto. Molter (Clarinet Concerto No 1 in A major) **3.00** Nick Bailey **7.00** Classic Newsnight **7.30** Sonata. Telemann (Bassoon Sonata in F minor) **8.00** Evening Concert. Sullivan (The Yeoman of the Guard, Overture); Holst (The Perfect Fool); Scott Joplin (The Entertainer); Verdi, arr Mackerras (The Lady and the Fool, Suite); Ravel (Alborada del Gracioso) **10.00** Michael Mappin **2.00am** Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Randal Lee Rosa

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Locatelli (Concerto Grosso in D, Op 1 No 9); Dvořák (Symphony No 5 in F); Mozart (Violin Sonata in F, K547); Britten (Diversions); Chopin (Scherzo No 2 in B flat minor, Op 31); Mozart (Vesperae Solonnes de Confessore, K339)
9.00 Morning Collection. Includes Rimsky-Korsakov (Overture, Russian Easter Festival); Haydn (Piano Trio in G, H XV 19); Maxwell Davies (Farewell to Stromness; Yesnaby Ground); Britten (Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Telemann (Sinfonia; Die Morgen, Die Tageszeiten, part 1); York Bowen (Horn Concerto); Colin Matthews (Night Music); York Bowen (Toccata); Schumann (Cello Concerto in A minor); Elgar (Overture: Froissart)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Amy Beach
1.00pm The BBC Orchestras. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, conductor Osmo Vanska, Mats Lidstrom, cello. Beethoven (Overture, Egmont); Khachaturian (Cello Concerto); Beethoven (Symphony No 8 in F)
2.15 Ensemble. Penny Gore introduces a recital by the Chagall Trio. Shostakovich (Piano Trio No 1); Beethoven (Piano Trio in D, Op 70 No 1, Ghost) (r)
3.00 Purcell and the Famed Italian Masters. Richard Boothby traces the Italian music that Purcell might have known and the extent to which it influenced these and later sonatas. Includes Vitali (Capriccio on 12 Notes); Purcell (Sonata a 4 in G minor); Vitali (Three Passagalli; Ciaccona in C); Purcell (Sonata a 3 in D minor) (3/3)
3.35 The BBC Orchestras. BBC National Orchestra of Wales, conductor Jun'ichi Hirokami, Peter Donohoe, piano and Jane Watts, organ. Debussy (Prélude à l'Après-Midi d'un Faune); Ravel (Piano Concerto in G); Messiaen (Les Offrandes Oubliées); Saint-Saëns (Symphony No 3 in C minor, organ)
5.00 Music Machine, with Sarah Walker
5.15 In Tune, with Geraint Lewis. Includes Haydn (Overture: Il Mondo della Luna); George Benjamin (Upon Silence); Schumann (Symphony No 4 in D minor); P.D.Q. Bach (Prelude and Fugue No 5, from the Short-tempered Clavier); Schickele (Unbegun Symphony)
7.30 Chamber Music from Edinburgh. Stephen Osborne, piano and Adeline Ramage, soprano. Bach (French Suite No 5 in G, BWV816); Debussy (Nuits d'etoiles; Romance; Les cloches; Voici que le printemps); Rachmaninov (Corelli Variations) **8.20** News from North Britain: Willemena's Metaphor, by Beatrice Colin (r) **8.40** Concert, part 2. Koechlin (Si tu le veux; La lune); Emil Paladilhe (Psyche); Chabrier (Chanson pour Jeanne); Bizet (Ouvre ton coeur); Messiaen (Noel; Le baiser de l'enfant Jesus; Regard de l'esprit de joie, Vingt regards sur l'enfant Jesus)
9.25 The Sound of Masks. See Choice
10.05 Steps in Time. See Choice
10.45 Night Waves. Richard Coles discusses the impact of the Nazi occupation on French national identity in the light of the film *A Self-Made Hero*, winner of Best Screenplay at Cannes
11.30 Composer of the Week: Mozart (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes, with Campbell Burnapp. Johnny Dankworth celebrates 50 years of performing with the first broadcast of his new Sextet
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod. Includes **1.00** Medtner; Ravel; Liszt; Mendelssohn **2.30** Vasks; Denisov; Cherubini

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, includes Thought for the Day **8.40** Racing Pigs and Giant Marrows (2/5)
9.00 News 9.05 Call Robin Lustig. Topical discussion with the guest of the day
10.00 News; Your Place or Mine?: Kevin's Story (FM). The story of a 17-year-old Canadian boy who was invloved in an accident when driving while drunk. He was not imprisoned and yet his victim's family approved (r)
10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour, with Wendy Austin. Includes a look at new research into the possible hereditary aspects of anorexia nervosa
11.30 Medicine Now. A look at the state of modern health care with Geoff Watts
12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Lesley Riddoch
12.25pm Word of Mouth. A new series of programmes in which Russell Davies explores words and the way we speak. This week he looks at the language of courtship (1/6) **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Books and Company. Jim Crace talks about his new novel *Quarantine*. Plus John Walsh looks at a new poetry anthology (4/8) (r)
2.30 Kiri. Dame Kiri Te Kanawa talks about her life and her music to June Knox-Mawer. Today she recalls her move from the London Opera Centre, where she studied, to the Royal Opera House, where she made her debut (2/4) (r)
3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Jane Markham
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan reads a new novel from Hanif Kureishi and hears a classic set of jazz recordings revitalised through modern digital techniques
4.45 Short Story: Fools Gold. Read by Mark Mulholland
5.00 PM, with Kevin Boucquet and Charlie Lee-Potter **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 No Commitments. Simon Brett's comedy following the lives of three sisters. With Rosemary Leach, Nicola Pagett and Celia Imrie (3/6) (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Reith Lecture Discussion. A discussion, chaired by Sue MacGregor, examining issues raised in the 1997 lecture series. With Patricia J. Williams, Professor Stuart Hall, Marek Kohn and Professor Roger Scruton
8.00 Science Now. Peter Evans reports on a recent study of human bones (r)
8.30 The New Sexual Nature, Another chance to hear the series in which Dr Gillian Rice explores human sexual behaviour (1/4)
9.00 In Touch. Peter White with news and features for visually impaired people
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Reading in the Dark, by Seamus Deane. Read by Stephen Rea (7/8)
11.00 Mediumwave. A look at the week's media events with Vincent Hanna (r)
11.30 Plain Tales from the Rhododendrons. A series exploring the lives of the officer classes in the decade after the Second World War (1/3) (r)
12.00 News incl **12.27am** approx Weather
12.30am The Late Book: The Wasp Factory, by Iain Banks. Read by Joseph McFadden (7/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (0.45-5.50am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

هكذا من الاعلام

Pets are rescued, viewers become addicted

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

If you asked the public for the most addictive new programme on telly in the past six months, there is little doubt that Channel 4's *Pet Rescue* would be pretty high on the list. I know. I know. But it's a show guaranteed to warm all four chambers of the heart at once. Simply, the RSPCA asks the public to adopt rescued animals, the public phones up (£1.50 a minute), the pets are placed with nice, suitable people, and ho hum, everyone is happy. Sometimes the fate of a rescued animal is dicey, and the nation waits white-knuckled (it's on every night) to learn the outcome. People can become addicted after only a couple of days' exposure to *Pet Rescue*. Some American friends recently insisted — only a week after arrival — that we must all get back from an outing by 5.30pm. Why? Because they were on tenterhooks about a homeless goat.

So Easter Monday brought us **Pet Rescue: Easter Special** (Channel 4), a good opportunity to catch up on some past stories, witness an appeal on behalf of rabbits, and experience the programme's legendarily mesmeric appeal. And it worked. After only a few minutes of high-pressure pretty-bunny pictures, I was dithering near the phone with my ears waggling and my nose doing that twitchy thing involuntarily. But is it just compassion that makes people phone up? Doesn't the television fame of the needy animal add to its attraction? You can't help wondering. Evidently 400 people once phoned in for "Helen the Gerbil" — an insane statistic, surely. Take away her celebrity, and Helen (nice name) is just a gerbil, after all.

This is why the rabbit appeal was interesting — because it was a general appeal on behalf of 500 *rabbits in animal rescue* centres around the country. A few were personalised, of course — Cottontail (abandoned beside a road); Dylan (horribly neglected). But the idea, on this occasion, is that the public phones up and gives a fine retirement home to *any old rabbit*. Will they? Damn, now I must watch the next series (starting next week) just to find out. Meanwhile, it is interesting to imagine the previous dastardly owners of Dylan and Cottontail watching *Pet Rescue* themselves. Overcome with excitement, they phone their friends. "See that rabbit on the telly? I knew him before he was famous."

Since I never tire of telling people that Stephen Fry, *Andrew Davies and* Anthony Minghella used to write for me (Anthony Minghella still owes me £1), *I can attest that "I knew him* before he was famous" is a slightly sad distinction. I mean, I don't know them *now*, do I? But fame is such an interesting subject, any angle is worth exploring. Imagine the lady blacksmith interviewed 25 years ago by a youthful Jeremy Paxman. Doesn't *she sometimes feel his success reflects on her?* "I met him, you know. I played my part," she tells her family every night at 10.30pm, pointing with a red-hot hammer. And they yawn and say "Yeah, yeah."

Last night's **Before They Were Famous** (BBC1) was not about the little people left behind, however. Shame. Instead, it was just a chance to laugh and gawp at Emma Thompson in a revue-sketch bikini, or Joanna Lumley *advertising cashmere*. Linked by Angus Deayton (formerly of the Crunchy Nut Cornflakes commercials) it was supposedly "buttock-clenchingly embarrassing" for the luminaries concerned, but curiously, there was never any doubt that it wasn't. Anna Ford in Joan Baez guise; Naomi Campbell as a pubescent dancer; Susan Sarandon advertising Magic Lady Panties — all were shown eagerly pursuing limelight careers that of course turned out exactly as they hoped.

It was still a hoot, though. Comedy being based on either recognition or surprise, *Before They Were Famous* scored with both — Ben Kingsley in *Coronation Street*, Nick Hancock in the worst beer *commercials in the* world. Strictly speaking, however, most of these people were *a bit* famous already, otherwise they wouldn't have been on the telly at all. George Michael may now regret being Wham! on *Top of the Pops*, for example, but he was certainly famous for it at the time.

Back on Channel 4, **Rawhides** traced a cattle drive across western Spain, rather pointlessly but to great visual effect. If you are attracted to dust, sun, horses, mooing and cowbells, it was a real treat. Two female Oxford undergraduates joined the cowboys, their presence adding the promise of a bit of drama, but when the drama failed to materialise, it didn't matter much. To jolly things along, I sang *Mule Train* and hit my head with a tea-tray for the whiplash bits. It really helped to pass the time.

Finally, while glad to add my *astonished congratulations to* **Channel 5** — not half as bad as one feared — I am obliged to mention that on the south coast we have a *reception problem. OK. Channel 5* is unavailable through transmitters because of the proximity to France (don't ask). But for some reason, my cable supplier has turned it all into *Max Headroom*, and *something must be done*.

Naturally, I assumed at first that the juddery picture was a fashion statement just taken beyond a joke. "Got the message, thanks!" I hohoed indulgently (with a headache) after the first hour on Sunday night. "Very modern! Very *Def II! Sure to entertain the* younger viewer!" However, by the time I'd watched *The Jack Docherty Show* my eyeballs were falling out and I was dry-retching. Hitting my head with a tea-tray did not reverse the effect, either. What an unfortunate way to start a new channel. If you were designing Channel 5 aversion therapy, this was precisely how you'd go about it.

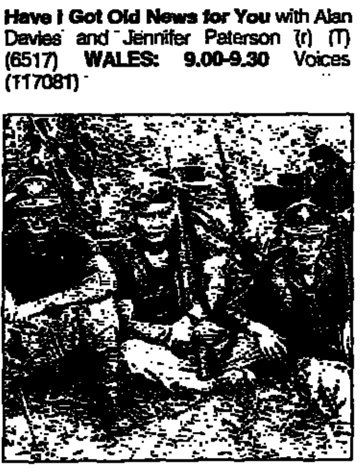
BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (77371)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (91130)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (8317623)
9.20 Style Challenge (3845888)
9.45 Kilroy (2473536)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (91791)
11.00 News (T) (4916371)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (9459062)
11.35 Change That (6880536)
12.00 News (T) and weather (4690739)
12.05pm Call My Bluff New series of the word game hosted by Bob Holness (5242468)
12.35 Good Living (9073739)
1.00 News (T) and weather (6291739)
1.35 Regional News (50611642)
1.45 The Weather Show (39194130)
1.50 Neighbours (T) (22047826)
2.10 Quincy The pathologist conducts an autopsy on a City Hall secretary (7937246)
3.00 As Time Goes By (r) (T) (2197)
3.30 Playdays (6388449) **3.50** Pingu (6008807) **3.55** Hububb (6448826) **4.10** Prince of Atlantis (8478739) **4.35** Pirates (7700739)
5.00 Newsround (T) (5451888)
5.10 The Lowdown The first in a new series of the young people's documentary series infiltrates Wimbledon's training for ballboys and girls (7037389)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (871555)
6.00 News (T) and weather (36)
6.30 Newsroom Southeast (88)
7.00 Holiday A cruise around the coast of Thailand, the Italian Riviera, the Greek *island of Lesbos, Deauville and a* Herefordshire country house (T) (4178)
7.30 999 Lifesavers Michael Buerk and Juliet *Morris introduce further heroic tales* including a dog-handler's horrific experience with an angry swarm of wasps, a doctor's risky miracle cure to help a young boy after a ten-minute underwater ordeal and how a pensioners' day out came to an abrupt end in a swimming pool (T) (72)
8.00 EastEnders April Fool's Day provides Nigel with plenty to laugh about (T) (3826)
8.30 Children's Hospital An update on the progress of cerebral palsy sufferers Nadia and Louise (T) (2333)
9.00 News (T) and weather (5517)
10.00 One Foot in the Grave Victor receives *an unlikely job offer (r)* (T) (83772)
10.30 Rough Justice: Murder at the Studio Investigation into the 1989 murder of 19-year-old Penny Laing (T) (111265)
11.15 Truly Madly Deeply (1991) with Juliet Stevenson and Alan Rickman. A young woman is so distraught when her musician lover dies that be comes back as a ghost, to keep her company. Directed by Anthony Minghella (969555)
12.55am The Next Voice You Hear (b/w, 1950) with James Whitmore and Nancy Davis. God's announcement over the radio has a profound effect on a small American town. Directed by William *Wellman* (4890550)
2.15 Weather (3593937)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Venice and Antwerp — the Cities Compared (2620449) **6.25** Berthe Morisot: An Interview with Kathleen Adler (2632284) **6.50** What Is Music? **7.15** See Hear Breakfast News (8417062) **7.30** Secret Life of Toys (2909197) **7.45** The Raccoons (4596772) **8.10** Wacky Races (3491246) **8.35** Young People's Specials (3510888) **9.05** Activ 8 (7729997) **9.35** Sweet Valley High (8970888) **10.00** Funnybones (7725420) **10.10** Teletubbies (1793536) **10.35** Babar (3066159) **11.00** The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (12401)
12.30pm Working Lunch (40555) **1.00** Secret Life of Toys (89295046)
1.15 The Big Circus (1959) with Victor Mature, Red Buttons, Rhonda Fleming and Vincent Price. A bankrupt circus owner struggles to get his show back on the road. Directed by Joseph Newman (26370975)
3.00 News (T) and weather (7987536) **3.05** *The Natural World (r) (T) (9117371)* **3.55** News (T) and weather (6098420) **4.00** Blockbusters (71) **4.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (3) **5.00** Esther (T) (5284) **5.30** Today's the Day (65)
6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Will makes a good impression on Lisa's father (r) (861604)
6.25 Heartbreak High A baby is discovered *on the warehouse doorstep* (T) (875178)
7.10 The O Zone (r) (265826)
7.30 From the Edge (T) (2)
8.00 The House Detectives: 40 Manningtree High Street Legends of witches and smugglers surround two houses in Essex (1468)
8.30 Food and Drink Two of Britain's award-winning young chefs reveal what it takes to be the best and Jilly Goolden and Oz Clarke taste New Zealand wine (T) (9325)
9.00 Have I Got Old News for You with Alan Davies and Jennifer Paterson (r) (T) (6517) **WALES: 9.00-9.30** Voices (117081)



Karen hillfighters (9.30pm)

9.30 Timewatch: Forgotten Allies (T) How Britain has neglected the Karen hill-tribes of Burma whose guerrilla fighters played such a pivatol role in the Allies' Second World War battle against Japan (T) (728159)
10.20 Travel Show Essential Guide (652739)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (87994)
11.30 The Kingdom: The Unheavenly Host (89265)
12.30am Learning Zone: Open University (77647) **1.00** Communications and the Future of Money (29163) **2.00** Language Season (50289) **4.00** BBC Focus. NCET *TV (26647)* **4.30** *Film Education (51802)* **5.00** Inside Europe H (39192) **5.30** Film Education (24043)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (6914284)
9.25 Chain Letters (T) (3853807)
9.55 Regional News (T) (2975994)
10.00 The Time, the Place (82994)
10.30 This Morning (T) (61335555)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (4689623)
12.30 News (T) (9069536)
12.55 Shortland Street (T) (9077555) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (64439130) **1.50** Afternoon Live (56331820) **2.20** Vanessa (T) (40911915) **2.50** Afternoon Live (5242826)
3.20 News (T) (7994826)
3.25 Regional News (T) (7993197)
3.30 Potamus Park (r) (T) (6430807) **3.40** Wizadora (r) (9081062) **3.50** Bimble's Bucket (T) (9087246) **4.00** Scooby Do (r) (5562420) **4.15** Hey Arnold! (T) (8462178) **4.40** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (T) (8515178)
5.10 Bagdad Cafe (r) (1826807)
5.40 News (T) and weather (651343)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (858130)
6.25 HTV Weather (774739)
6.30 HTV News (T) (4)
7.00 Emmerdale The Dingles finally come face to face with Mr Big and Dee is found *out by the immigration authorities* (T) (4401)
8.00 The Bill After a series of graffiti attacks, a *likely suspect protests his innocence.* Boyden and Page discover the true culprit is making a bid for self-expression (T) (8994)
8.30 Loved by You Kate gets promoted and throws a house party to celebrate, but a churlish Michael, whose documentary has been turned down by the BBC, finds it hard to share in her happiness (T) (7401)

Vazquez and Lukis (9.00pm)

9.00 Peak Practice When Clare endangers one of David's older patients, it is time for him to face facts concerning his wife's erratic behaviour. With Yolanda Vazquez and Adrian Lukis (T) (3913)
10.00 News (T) and weather (18468)
10.30 Regional News (T) (829975)
10.40 Blade Runner: The Director's Cut (1991) starring Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer and Sean Young. Film noir meets science fiction when a 21st-century *former-cop is assigned to track down a* gang of replicants. Directed by Ridley Scott (T) (36545284)
12.45 Dating the Enemy (279840)
1.45 Stand and Deliver (8451314)
2.50 The Chart Show (r) (4110289)
3.45 Phenomena (28969043)
3.50 Football Extra (5031918)
4.30 The Time, the Place (r) (88956)
5.00 Heirloom (r) (33918)
5.30 News (28869)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9077555)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1826807)
6.25-7.00 Central News (156555)
12.45am Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (9704668)
1.20 Football Extra (8360173)
2.00 Film: California Split (117005)
3.50 In Focus (9222550)
4.35 Central Jobfinder '97 (6579802)
5.20 Asian Eye (2772647)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (2371178)
1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (70043178)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1826807)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (12772)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1826807)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (84)
6.30-7.00 Michael Barry's Undiscovered Cooks (4)
2.30am The Chart Show (113273)
5.00 Freescreen (33918)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (4668130)
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9077555)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1826807)
6.23 Anglia Weather (775468)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (156555)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (923739)
1.45am Football Extra (8396734)

S4C

Starts: 6.00 Sesame Street (60081)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (24468)
9.00 Bewitched (95517)
9.30 Sister Sister (8999913)
9.55 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (7410401)
10.20 Crystal Maze (7717772)
11.20 Earthworm Jim (4994517)
11.45 The Pink Panther (6419420)
12.00pm Fresh Pop (4683449)
12.05 California Dreams (9761401)
12.30 Baby It's You (35623)
1.00 Slot Meithrin (91990474)
1.15 Pingu (96940979)
1.30 Film: Cattle Empire (83826)
3.00 Collectors' Lot (5807)
3.30 Montel Williams (62)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (7)
4.30 A Cook on the Wild Side (81)
5.00 5 Pump (4492)
5.30 Countdown (33)
6.00 Newyddion (489159)
6.05 Heno (876536)
6.35 Bob Yn Ddau (741401)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (986807)
7.25 Glangwili (244604)
8.00 Pacio (6536)
8.30 Newyddion (8371)
9.00 Witness (1555)
10.00 Brookside (425710)
10.35 Rawhides (683807)
11.35 The Goldring Audit (542371)
12.35am Hill Street Blues (7208869)
1.30-2.30 For the Love Of (88734)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 am Sesame Street (60081) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (24468) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (95517) **9.30** Sister Sister (r) (8999913) **9.55** Hangin' with Mr Cooper (r) (T) (7410401) **10.20** The Crystal Maze (r) (7717772) **11.20** *Earthworm Jim (r)* (4994517) **11.45** The Pink Panther (6419420)
12.00 Fresh Pop (4683449)
12.05pm California Dreams (r) (9761401)
12.30 Light Lunch (38449)
1.30 The Village Full of Cooks A profile of Kalayur, an Indian village famed for its cuisine (22010772)
1.50 My Friend Flicka (1943) with Roddy McDowell and Preston Foster. A family film about the relationship between a young boy and a colt, directed by Harold D. Schuster (T) (42186536)
3.30 Collectors' Lot Sue Cook is in a *converted old police station near* Cheltenham (T) (62) **4.00** Fifteen-To-One (T) (7) **4.30** Countdown (T) (81) **5.00** Ricki Lake (T) (4492) **5.30** The Real Holiday Show (r) (T) (33)
6.00 Friends Monica's plans for a cosy *Thanksgiving dinner for her friends go* awry (r) (T) (856772)
6.25 Ant and Dec Unzipped with guests *Andrew O'Connor and Magenta Devine* (864791)
6.55 Fresh Pop (710791)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (368623)
7.55 Thatcher's Children How will some of the 1,784 children born in the UK on the day Margaret Thatcher was elected Prime Minister cast their first vote? (686555)
8.00 Wild Britain: A Coat of Many Colours. The starling (T) (6536)
8.30 Brookside Jimmy becomes the voice of the people (T) (8371)

Gillian and Jordon (9.00pm)

9.00 Witness: Babies Behind Bars The realities of life in a *prison's mother and baby unit* (T) (1555)
10.00 The Tall Guy (1989) A comedy with Jeff Goldblum, Rowan Atkinson and Emma Thompson. Directed by Mel Smith (T) (537710)
11.45 Film Night Includes a visit to New York's Underground Film Festival (343197)
12.25am The Go-Between (1972) with Julie Christie, Alan Bates and Dominic Guard. A romantic drama set in turn-of-the-century Norfolk. Directed by Joseph Losey (T) (43393005)
2.35 Visions of Light The art of the cinematographers (r) (T) (378289)
4.20 I Was Catherine the Great's Stable Boy (r) (61786314)
4.25 The Hunger Artist An adaptation of a Kafka short story (r) (4436024)
5.15 The Almost Complete History of the 20th Century (9/11) (r) (T) (2773376)
5.25-6.00 Backdate (r) (T) (7354821)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News Early News, sport and entertainment (7148604)
7.30 Havakazoo Magazine for pre-school children (2266062)
8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol Children's drama series (2884791)
8.30 Wideworld: History in the Making Russell Grant investigates local history (2883062)
9.00 Espresso Magazine show featuring advice on consumer issues (5883913)
10.00 Exclusive with Jonathan Coleman and Julia Bradbury (6191062)
10.30 Hot Property Exploring the housing market through the eyes of a homebuyer (r) (T) (2803826)
11.00 Leeza Topical discussion with Leeza Gibbons (9023710)
11.50 Espresso Update (45697555)
12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Sheila tells Connor about her need for a baby (2894178)
12.30pm Family Affairs (9778994)
1.00 5 News Update (92791130)
1.05 Sunset Beach Tiffany stirs up some trouble (T) (6893604)
2.00 5's Company Live entertainment show (1475389)
3.30 Earth Angel (1990) A *high-school* student is killed but before she is allowed to enter heaven she has to complete one final mission on Earth. With Cindy Williams and Cathy Podewell (4771333)
5.20 5's Company Update (14668739)
5.30 100 Per Cent *Computer* generated game show (1740197)
6.00 Whittle with Tim Vine (T) (1730710)
6.30 Family Affairs *Who is Maria's new* boyfriend? (T) (1721062)
7.00 Exclusive Entertainment news (1648246)
7.30 Serengeti Safari: Big Boss A film about the Cape buffalo (T) (1727246)

Herzigova and Torres (8.00pm)

8.00 ***Fame and Fortune*** *Revealing* the lifestyles of the rich and famous, including Eva Herzigova and Tico Torres (1657994)
8.30 5 News (1636401)
9.00 My Stepmother Is an Alien Sci-fi comedy about an astronomer's marriage to an extra-terrestrial. With Dan Aykroyd and Kim Basinger (T) (1244333)
11.00 The Jack Docherty Show (9042325)
11.40 The Comedy Store Arthur Smith meets veterans of London's renowned comedy venue and Richard Morton introduces some of today's rising stars (2945468)
12.10am Live and Dangerous Dominik Diamond and Trish Adudu present the *late night sports magazine show* featuring live basketball from the US Major League (57625799)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (6960869)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (5831550)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (930449) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (47642) **10.00** Another World (69555) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (49791) **12.00** *Oprah Winfrey* (76994) **1.00pm** Geraldo (85642) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (14517) **3.00** Jenny Jones (85178) **4.00** Oprah with the Stars (97913) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (4333) **6.00** Real TV (6888) **6.30** Married — with Children (8026) **7.00** The Simpsons (5062) **7.30** M*A*S*H (9352) **8.00** Police Stop! 4 (4710) **8.30** *Real TV UK (1307)* **9.00** Picket Fences (67831) **10.00** Unsolved Mysteries (14178) **11.00** Selina Scott Tonight (98642) **11.30** Star Trek: The Next Generation (95443) **12.30am** *LAPD (17289)* **1.00** *Hit Mix*

SKY 2

7.00pm *Superboy (4978265)* **8.00** Xena: Warrior Princess (1000178) **9.00** Pacific Blue (1013642) **10.00** Malibu Shores (1083401) **11.00** Late Show (6509623) **12.00** Hit Mix (8666376)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Night of the Grizzly (1966) (26421975) **7.45 How to Murder Your Wife (1965)** (505159) **9.45 Miracle on 34th Street (1994)** (606352) **11.45 It Could Happen to You (1994)** (52548449) **1.30pm Where the River Runs Black (1986)** (45249848) **3.10 Prince for a Day (1995)** (28836994) **5.00 Miracle on 34th Street (1994)** (43178) **7.00 It Could Happen to You (1994)** (65468) **9.00 Judge Dredd (1995)** (24950807) **10.40 La Reine Margot (1994)** (74543468) **1.05am Nicky and Gino (1987)** (545289) **2.50 The Spider and the Fly (1994)** (9900802) **4.15 Night of the Grizzly (1966)** (743078)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Black Widow (1954) (26438265) **7.40 Big Wheels and Sailor (1970)** (3106710) **8.35 Breakout (1984)** (4682804) **9.40 A Gift for Heidi (1958)** (8189975) **11.00 Jitterbugs (1943)** (5126130) **12.15pm Little Miss Millions (1992)** (523710) **2.00 The World in His Arms (1952)** (98772) **4.00 Big Wheels and Sailor (1970)** (80623) **5.00 Breakout (1984)** (1541) **6.00 My Girl II (1994)** (22393) **7.30 Special Feature** (2062) **8.00 Falling for You (1995)** (11081) **10.00 Exit to Eden (1994)** (896333) **11.55 Above Suspicion (1994)** (569739) **1.35am Awake to Danger (1995)** (417192) **3.10 To Die For (1994)** (133463) **4.55 Ivanhoe (1986)** (7142579)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Jet Pilot (1957) (8807246) **8.00 Explorers (1985)** (6802791) **10.00 Heartbreak Ridge (1986)** (27509866) **12.15am All the Right Moves (1983)** (5317534) **1.50 Cherry, Harry and Raquel (1969)** (91713821) **3.10 Broken Lance (1954)** (3953444) **4.50 Horse Feathers (1932)** (12647598)

TNT

9.00pm The Ice Pirates (1984) (69062062) **11.00 Arsenic and Old Lace (1944)** (75872772) **1.00am The Battle of the Sexes (1960)** (35014666) **2.30-5.00 The Magnificent Seven Deadly Sins (1971)** (53683289)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (26046) **7.30** Tartan Extra (89333) **8.00** Rebel Sports (94791) **8.30** Racing News (93062) **9.00** Sports Centre (17642) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (28246) **10.00** World Wide Rugby (31710) **12.00** *Snooker:* British Open — Live (6550178) **4.59pm** Sports Centre (1119975) **5.00** Blast Off (9807) **6.00** Sports Centre (5197) **6.30** Hall of Fame (6449) **7.00** Football — Live (778536) **10.00** *Sports* Centre (94997) **10.30** Snooker: British Open (66888) **12.00** NBA Basketball (52685) **1.30am** Sports Centre (50666) **2.00** Football (22531) **3.00-3.30** Sports Centre

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 *Sports Unlimited (57916130)* **1.00pm** Tartan Extra (50146081) **1.30** NBA Basketball (35035159) **3.00** International Cricket — Live (64169389) **10.00** Football Hall of Fame (93841710) **10.30-11.30** *The Footballers' Football Show* (55276420)

EUROSPORT

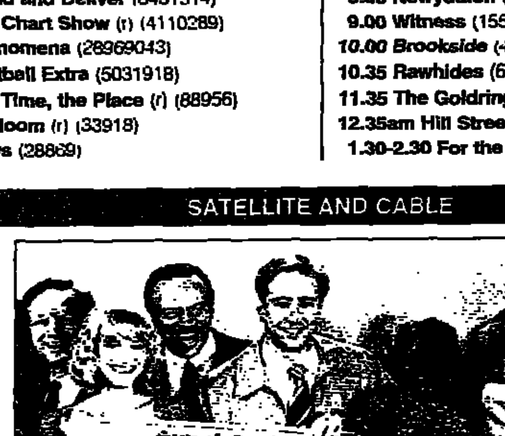
7.30am Speed Skating (77888) **9.00** Mountain Bike (70994) **10.00** Free Climbing (76523) **11.00** Football (90449) **12.00** *NASCAR (36265)* **1.00pm** *Triathlon (94265)* **1.30** Snowboarding (83536) **2.30** Dog-Sled Racing (86888) **3.30** All Sports (28197) **4.30** Martial Arts (39994) **5.30** Motorcycling (3352) **6.00** *Tractor Pulling (32449)* **7.00** Freeride (64197) **8.00** Boxing — Live (44333) **10.00** Basketball (74710) **11.30-12.30am** Four Wheels Drive (28791)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (1711994) **7.35** Neighbours (5382371) **8.00** Crossroads (3397888) **8.25** *EastEnders (6721710)* **9.00** The Bill (4586230) **9.30** Don't Wait Up (4701721) **10.00** Never the Twain (4463604) **10.30** The Sullivans (4881082) **11.00** Kinsey (4327888) **12.00** *Crossroads* (5151554) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2309587) **1.00** EastEnders (8708807) **1.35** The Les Dawson Show (3888197) **2.20** The Mistress (8607081) **2.55** 'Allo 'Allo! (5885456) **3.30** The Bill (2433791) **4.00** All Creatures Great and Small (5204517) **5.00** Larry Grayson's Generation Game (30305710) **6.05** EastEnders (4119130) **6.40** Are You Being Served? (1024062) **7.20** Russ Abbot (4294791) **7.50** Bullseye (6323265) **8.20** In Sickness and in Health (8357623) **9.00** The Bill (5293401) **9.30** Boon (79823449) **10.35** Love Thy Neighbour (6849130) **11.10** The Best of Top of the Pops (3092994) **11.50** **FILM: He'll Follow You Anywhere** (3092604) **1.25am** Private Schultz (9920869) **2.25** Shopping at Night

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Krypton Factor (5933623) **6.30** Once Upon a Time (23734994) **6.45** The Magic Ball (79918081) **7.00** Alphabet Zoo (9641130) **7.15** Once Upon a Time (3508371) **7.30** Catweazle (4308178) **8.00** Classic Coronation Street (5070352) **8.30** Families (5079623) **9.00** *The Professionals* (5942371) **10.00** On the Buses (2896710) **10.30** Brass (5066159) **11.00** Within These Walls (4317826) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (5080739) **12.30pm** Families (6823975) **1.00** Crown Court (4311642) **1.30** The Good Life Guide (6822246) **2.00** This Year Next Year (2804739) **3.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (3582710) **4.00** The Doctor Series (7631438) **4.30** On the Buses (5786802) **5.00** The Professionals (5137265) **6.00** *Families (6306055)* **6.30** Classic Coronation Street (6231997) **7.00** The Doctor Series (5138994) **7.30** Brass (4336361) **8.00** Upstairs Downstairs (2430449) **9.00** *Classic Coronation Street* (3567401) **9.30** The Comedians (6843739) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (2413772)



Comedy with Nicolas Cage and Bridget Fonda (Sky Movies, 7.00pm)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Big Garage (9233468) **6.15** Muppet Babies (7061159) **6.40** The Care Bears (1511284) **7.05** Enchanted Tales (6701826) **7.55** The Little Mermaid (1605807) **8.20** Aladdin (1234389) **8.45** Quack Pack (8639642) **9.10** New Doug (3990826) **9.35** Mighty Ducks (3400807) **10.00** Goof Troop (8706333) **10.25** Darkwing Duck (6700772) **10.50** Timon and Pumbaa (3627994) **11.15** Bonkers (616159) **11.45** The Little Mermaid (5512791) **12.10pm** *Quack Attack* (2441352) **12.40** Mouse Tracks (5268449) **1.10** Stick with Me Kid (1608246) **2.00** **FILM: The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes** (79449) **3.30** Timon and Pumbaa (1479352) **3.40** New Doug (9549933) **4.05** Goof Troop (9982802) **4.30** Quack Pack (9707604) **4.55** Aladdin (9726739) **5.20** Flash Forward (4172061) **5.45** Timon and Pumbaa (129739) **6.00** Flash Forward (5739) **6.30** Boy Meets World (9791) **7.00** Brotherly Love (9996) **7.30** **FILM: Back to Hannibal** (30710) **9.00** Dave's World (71913) **9.30-10.00** Golden Girls (62604)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (1033975) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (7489371) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (6599975) **7.30** Eagle Riders *(8501710)* **8.00** *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles* (8937975) **8.30** Masked Rider (8936246) **9.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (8850826) **9.30** Power Rangers Zeo (7892130) **10.00** *Casper (7470623)* **10.30** Ace Ventura (8949710) **11.00** Life with Louie (8580062) **11.30** The Tick (8580791) **12.00** Incredible Hulk (8930062) **12.30pm** Mortal Kombat (7803246) **1.00** Highlander (6598246) **1.30** Eagle Riders (7802517) **2.00** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (4974449) **2.30** *Masked Rider (3640197)* **3.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (4986284) **3.30** Power Rangers Zeo (3645642) **4.00** Casper (3631449) **4.30** Ace Ventura (3620333) **5.00** *Spiderman (4958401)* **5.30** *Goosebumps* (3644913) **6.00** Sweet Valley High (3641826) **6.30-7.00** Sweet Valley High (3632178)

TCC

6.00am Road to Avonlea (73517) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (37888) **8.00** Batman (36791) **8.30** Art Attack (35062) **9.00** Flash Gordon (59642) **9.30** Bobby's World (84826) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (24265) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (55826) **11.00** Danger Mouse (64623) **11.30** Gravedale High (65352) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (46178) **12.30pm** Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (89642) **1.00** By Way of the Stars (63642) **1.30** Black Beauty (87913) **2.00** The Girl from Tomorrow (2536) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (4064) **3.00** Art Attack (4371) **3.30** Flash Gordon (2401) **4.00** Batman (1536) **4.30-5.00** The Big Dish (4820)

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from **6.00am** to **9.00pm** Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles* (87420) **6.30** Count Duckula (79468) **7.00** Captain Simian and the Space Monkeys (26028) **7.30** Tales from the Cryptkeeper (87975) **8.00** *Bruno the Kid (92333)* **8.30** Hey Arnold! (91604) **9.00** Rugrats (15284) **9.30** Rugrats (26888) **10.00** Aaahh! Real Monsters (53420) **10.30** Doug (11468) **11.00** Rocko's Modern Life (26449) **11.30** Bailey Kipper (27178) **12.00** Kenan and Kel (95420) **12.30pm** The Secret World of Alex Mack (20604) **1.00** Sister Sister (76569) **1.30** Moesha (29975) **2.00** Round the Twist (7062) **2.30** Pete and Pete (5710) **3.00** Stickin' Around (8197) **3.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters (7555) **4.00** Rugrats (6062) **4.30** Ren and Stimpy (2248) **5.00** The Adventures of Pete and Pete (1842) **5.30** Press Gang (8826) **6.00** Press Gang (3739) **6.30-7.00** *Doug (7791)*

TROUBLE

12.00 *Heartbreak High* (9854212) **1.00pm** Madison (4316772) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (5454456) **2.00** Hangtime (3851130) **2.30** California Dreams (2456642) **3.00** Byker Grove *Special (3870265)* **3.30** 9-2-5 (2435159) **4.00** Sweet Valley High (2447994) **4.30** Hangtime (2443178) **5.00** Saved by the Bell (3875710) **5.30** California Dreams (2427130) **6.00** Byker Grove (2457371) **6.30** Madison (2448623) **7.00-8.00** Heartbreak High (9735468)

BRAVO

8.00pm The New Twilight Zone (3871994) **8.30** The New Twilight Zone (3850401) **9.00** The Burning Zone (9724352) **10.00** Tour of Duty (9734739) **11.00** **FILM: The Stepfather** (2524410) **1.00am** The Burning Zone (4514444) **2.00** Tour of Duty (9509753) **3.00** **FILM: The End** (4091227) **5.00** The New Twilight Zone (519549)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Entertainment UK (8179) **7.30** Roseanne (3975) **8.00** Roseanne (7826) **8.30** Monty Python (6333) **9.00** Cheers (39913) **9.30** Taxi (40468) **10.00** Garry Shandling (94979) **10.30** Frasier (12197) **11.00** Modern Problems in Science (77230) **11.30** Monty Python (59604) **12.00** Nurses (92482) **12.30am** Soap (53005) **1.00** Cheers (65901) **1.30** Taxi (58208) **2.00** Entertainment UK (70005) **2.30** Modern Problems (82840) **3.00** Frasier (22395) **3.30-4.00** *Garry Shandling's (73192)*

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm The Guyver (7836284) **8.30** The Twilight Zone (7815791) **9.00** **FILM: Damnation Alley** (52192791) **10.40** **FILM: Return to Horror High** (39351552) **12.30am** Star Wars Trilogy: The Force Returns (3110622) **1.00** The Twilight Zone (1092685) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3799531) **2.00** 100 Years of Horror *(5890734)* **2.30** *Night Gallery* (5819869) **3.00-4.00** Friday the 13th (9871463)

TLC

9.00am The Joy of Painting (6386212) **9.30** Grow with Joe (2204933) **10.00** Stars and Gardens (4461246) **10.30** Our House (6681064) **11.00** The Painted House (5211807) **11.30** This Old House (5212536) **12.00** Yan Can Cook (2986456) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (4109569) **1.00** Today's *Gourmet (4329246)* **1.30** *Home Again* (9054410) **2.00** Hometime (3864604) **2.30** Furniture to Go (2436888) **3.00** Two's Country (3883739) **3.30-4.00** This Old *House (2431333)*

DISCOVERY

4.00pm *Fishing Adventures (2450489)* **4.30** Bush Tucker Man (2449352) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (3888284) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (2430604) **6.00** Wild Things (7054230) **7.00** Invention (3868420) **7.30** Wonders of Weather (2440081) **8.00** Outer Space (9717062) **9.00** Extreme Machines (9737826) **10.00** Hunting the Dragon (9730913) **11.00** Deadman's Curve (4339623) **12.00** Classic Wheels (4090604) **1.00am** Top Marques (1217227) **1.30-2.00** The Extremists (3971772)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Ancient Mysteries (7839371) **6.00** Vietnam (7896492) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Colin Powell (4331913)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with **Prize Time** twice an hour
5.05pm Blockbusters (6789389) **5.50** Family Fortunes (757536) **6.30** Catchphrase (647246) **7.05** Sale of the Century (714642) **7.40** Give Us A Clue (518555) **8.20** All Clued Up (650265) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (891710) **9.35** Busman's Holiday (893739) **10.05** *Treasure Hunt (351536)* **11.20** Love at First Sight (813449) **12.00** Sale of the Century (47956) **12.30am** Hart to Hart (92753) **1.30** Moonlighting (24598) **2.30** *Chrissy (70840)* **3.30** *Claymation Easter* (28666) **4.00-5.00** The Fall Guy

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (7496438) **9.00** Gladrags and Glamour (8583623) **9.15** Gordon Elliott (6923062) **10.05** Jerry Springer (7899739) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (6128791) **11.50** Brookside (2403333) **12.25pm** Take a Letter (38821456) **12.55** Tempest (8073604) **1.40** Rolonda (8318555) **2.30** The Heat Is On (9853081) **3.00** Easter Live at Three (26450807) **4.05** Jerry Springer (8247246) **5.05** Lingo (79027975) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (9864197) **6.00** *I Dream of Jeannie* (3912888) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (2301333) **7.05** Hearts Afire (1246468) **7.35** Brookside (2955623) **8.05** Rolonda *(5752913)* **9.00** **FILM: The Ann Jillian Story** (6809604) **11.00-12.00** The Sex Files (2241555)

ZEE TV

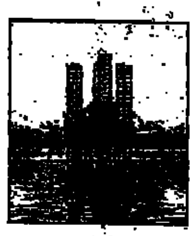
7.00am Jaagran **7.30** Election Special **8.00** ZEE Calling **8.30** Business Report **9.00** Ha *Ha Sirupu* **9.30** *Super Stunts* **10.00** *Hastey* Bastay **10.30** Hero Kal Aaj Aur Kal **11.00** Khoobsurat **11.30** Naaye Taraane **12.00** Sailaab **12.30pm** Dhoop Aur Chaon **1.00** **FILM: Bombay 405 Miles** **4.00** ZEE Zone Presents **4.10** Mr Mintoo **4.45** Aahaa **5.15** Hum Zameen **6.00** Dance Mania **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Aap Ki Farmaish **7.30** Election Special **8.00** News **8.35** Daraar **9.05** Jaal **9.30** Abhinetri **10.00** Tara **11.00-12.00** Sa Re Ga Ma

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds



SOURCE OF JOY 42
Bangladesh boon for Cairn Energy

BUSINESS

HEAVY BURDEN 41
The cost of obesity on the NHS

TUESDAY APRIL 1 1997

Bank bar on Villa board membership

By Jason Nissé

EDDIE George, the Governor of the Bank of England, has prevented Mervyn King, the Bank's chief economist, from becoming a non-executive director of Aston Villa Football Club.

The block is threatening to delay the £140 million flotation of the Premiership team, which is expected to gain a place in the Uefa cup next year, so generating millions of pounds of extra television income.

Mr King, a lifelong Villa fan, provisionally accepted an invitation to join the board after he was approached earlier this year by Doug Ellis, the club's 73-year-old chairman and largest shareholder.

Both Mr Ellis and Mr King were encouraged by the fact that Brian Quinn, the Bank's former head of supervision, is now a director of Celtic, the Glasgow club whose shares are traded on the Alternative Investment Market.

However Mr Quinn joined the Celtic board after leaving the Bank.

Mr King needed to have the appointment approved by the Governor, who is understood to have told Mr King that being a director of a commercial organisation could provide a conflict of interest with the Bank's activities.

A spokesman for the Bank refused to comment on why Mr George was so opposed to any director of the Bank also being a director of a football club.

The Bank's apparent attitude is at odds with the attitude prevailing in the rest of the public sector, where senior civil servants are actively encouraged to take non-executive directorships of commercial companies to gain experience of the private sector.

Mr Ellis wanted to restructure Villa's board before the float, changing the culture from a club dominated by himself to something that would be acceptable to the investment community.

He had already lined up two leading members of the Midlands business community as non-executive directors, but wanted to bring in a City figure as well.

Villa had hoped to announce Mr King's appointment a month ago, but the ban by Mr George has left Mr Ellis searching for an alternative director.

The club needs to find a nationally known business leader who is also a Villa supporter.

Mr Ellis is keen to avoid the embarrassment suffered by Newcastle United when its new chairman, Sir Terrence Harrison, admitted at the launch of the club's prospectus that he was actually a Sunderland fan.

Sir Terrence's split allegiances have not put off potential investors in Newcastle. The flotation, valuing the club at £197 million, was seven times oversubscribed and the shares are expected to hit a substantial premium to their 135p floation price when they start trading tomorrow.

Villa has been encouraged by the success of the Newcastle float, which was overshadowed by the poor performance of the football sector over the past month and the collapse of Charlton Athletic shares after flotation on the Alternative Investment Market.

Villa is planning to raise up to £25 million. It will use the money to fund the redevelopment of Villa Park, turning the stadium, which is only two miles from the centre of Birmingham, into a 50,000 all-seat ground.

Mr Ellis has said the second part of this redevelopment, the building of a new roof and the addition of an extra layer of seating at a cost of £12 million, will not start until the end of the 1997-98 season and could be delayed if pay-per-view TV coverage was likely to have an impact on football ground attendances.

AMP puts NPI on shopping list

From Rachel Bridge in Sydney

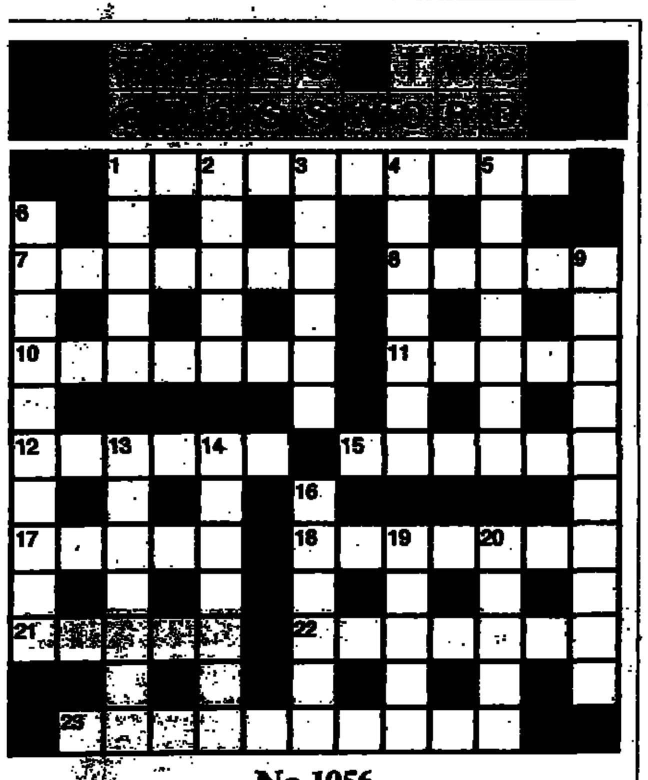
AMP, Australia's biggest life assurance group, yesterday signalled a strong interest in bidding for National Provident Institution (NPI), the UK life assurer, as it said that it would be resuming talks with several British life offices after its unsuccessful bid for Scottish Amicable.

Jonathan Schwartz, AMP's group development manager, confirmed that the group had been holding discussions with at least four British life offices before its bid for Scottish Amicable was launched in January. He said that the group would be reopening talks with all of them shortly and that NPI would be on any list of British life offices under scrutiny by potential bidders at present.

AMP is believed to have written to NPI's board requesting talks about an offer in the past few days, making it clear that it plans to appeal to policyholders if the NPI board rejects its approach.

AMP already owns Pearl Assurance, which it acquired in 1989 for £1.1 billion, and is understood to be particularly keen to expand into the higher margin, higher quality end of the British life insurance industry.

NPI is believed to be about to appoint advisers to work either on an auction or a stock market flotation of the company. It is understood to have been approached in the past about possible takeovers, but the discussions have not gone any further.



No 1056

ACROSS
1 Gloomy, funereal (10)
7 Rapid eg drink; divorce (7)
8 Famous; observed (5)
10 Unplaced horse (4-3)
11 Maker of gift (6)
12 Turn into cypher (6)
15 Overlook (6)
17 Smouldering coal (5)
18 Fundamental; favouring basic changes (7)
21 John —, 17C empiricist (5)
22 Wild applause (7)
23 Banter (10)

DOWN
1 One from Lausanne (5)
2 Rod; card game (5)
3 (Vault) rib (6)
4 Ashamed (expression) (7)
5 Shylock pound-of-flesh victim (7)
6 A good feed (6,4)
9 Himalayan town, tea (10)
13 Tiny (changing-)room (7)
14 Gets less light (7)
16 Withdraw (*informal*) (3,3)
19 Playwriting art (5)
20 Rebuke (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1055
ACROSS: 1 Muse 3 Crucible 8 Starved 10 Merge 11 Articulated 13 Regard 15 Uganda 17 Infertility 20 Leper 21 Refusal 22 One by one 23 Here
DOWN: 1 Miscarry 2 Smart 4 Riddle 5 Come to grief 6 Borodin 7 Ever 9 Vicar of Bray 12 Navy blue 14 Glimpse 16 Dry run 18 Issue 19 Clio

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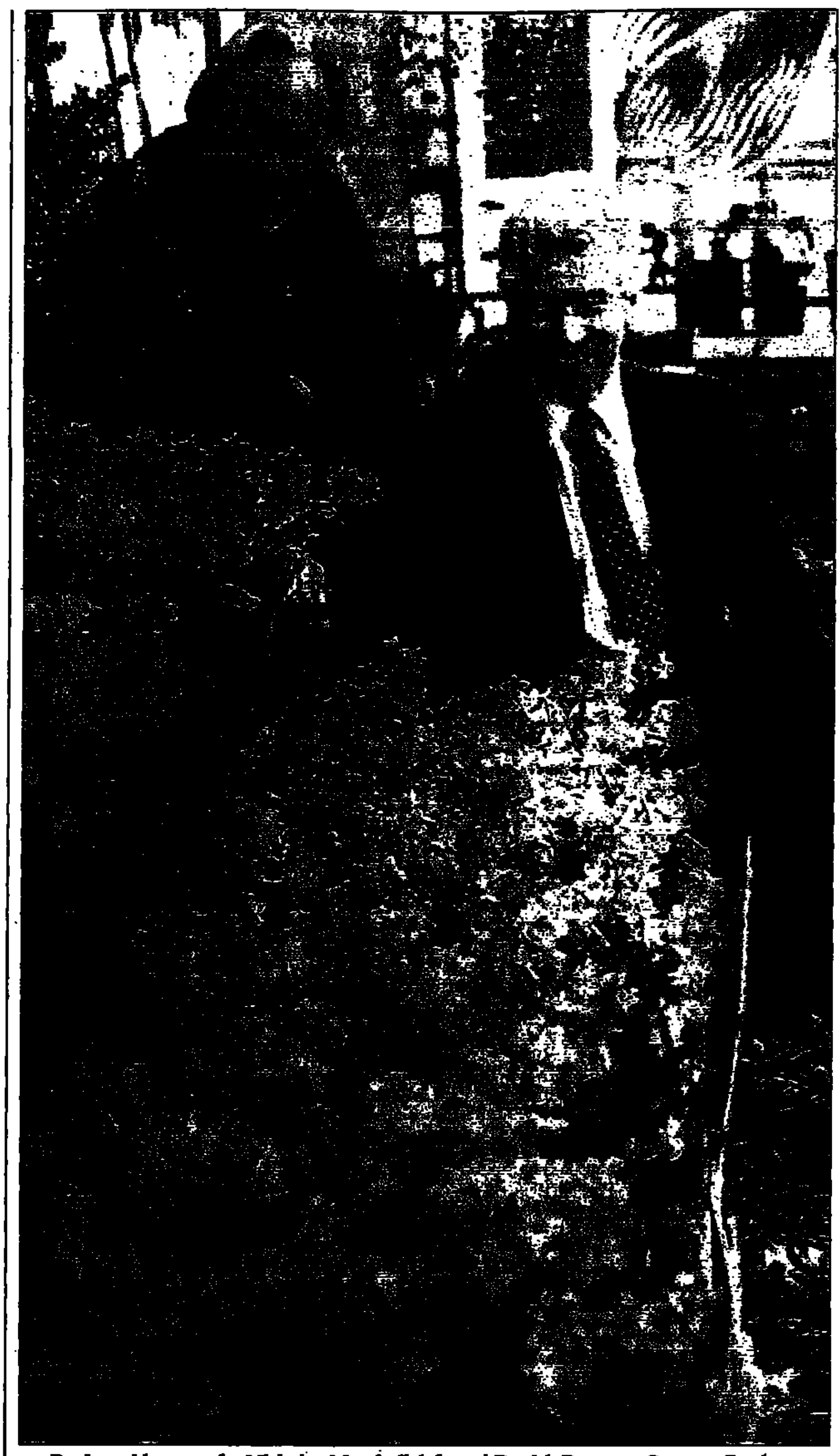


Business blossoms for Nicholas Marshall, left, and Patrick Pearce at Country Gardens

Loophole leaves B&Q in bloom at Easter

By Sarah Cunningham

THE SUNNIEST EASTER for eight years meant booming sales at DIY and garden centres over the bank holiday weekend.

B&Q, which opened ten of its garden centres in England and Wales on Easter Sunday after finding a loophole in the Sunday trading law, said that sales were "very encouraging". By placing its tills outside, B&Q was able to get round the ban on large shops trading on Easter Sunday. None of its DIY centres in England and Wales was open on Easter Sunday, but all the major DIY operators were able to open for trade in Scotland, where different rules apply.

Strong sales at Country Gardens, the fast-growing AIM-listed garden centre group, have encouraged it to expand with the purchase of a centre at Tunbridge Wells in Kent. The acquisition takes the company, which is run by Nicholas Marshall, chief executive, and Patrick Pearce, finance director, to a total of 33 outlets.

At Homebase, the DIY arm of J Sainsbury, Ross McLaren, managing director, said that sales were well ahead of last Easter weekend, which came later in the year but was particularly cold. The good weather this year fuelled demand for garden mowers, trimmers and shredders, he said. He dismissed the B&Q Easter Sunday opening as "a strange gimmick" and said he has no plans to open Homebase garden centres next Easter Sunday.

Wickes, the DIY retailers and builders merchant that spent most of last year immersed in an accounting scandal, also enjoyed buoyant trade. "The weather has been a big help," a spokesman said.

Rollercoaster Dow raises fears for London shares

From Richard Thomson in New York

WALL STREET continued its rapid decline yesterday, prompting fears of a large fall when London trading opens this morning and a big correction in world markets over the next few days.

In a rollercoaster ride that betrayed investors' extreme nervousness, the Dow Jones industrial average plunged 140 points in early trading, before recovering to stand 120 points down at 6,620 at midday. The fall comes after last Thursday's 220-point drop during the day, which was cut to a 140 decline during the last half hour of trading.

The UK market will gain its first chance to digest this market correction today, having been closed on Friday and yesterday.

Although Wall Street dealers blamed foreign selling, trading in New York was heavy as investors jumped on the bandwagon of falling stock prices. Analysts said that there was no sector leading the market, since the collapse of high technology and bank shares in recent weeks.

Investors are increasingly fleeing to safe, large capital stocks, although even blue chips such as Eastman Kodak were coming under strong selling pressure. Michael Metz, equity market strategist for Oppenheimer, the fund manager, said: "There is some trend following now. At this rate, the Dow could go below 6,000 before any of the value investors start to buy."

The mood on Wall Street has changed radically in the past few days, with previously bullish analysts now turning pessimistic about the market's near-term prospects. Most observers, however, do not expect a 1987-style crash. David Schulman, chief equity strategist at Salomon Brothers, said: "We're in a real correction now. Another tightening in interest rates by the Federal Reserve Board and the fall could get worse."

The steep fall in share prices was triggered last week by a quarter of a percentage point increase in the discount rate by the Fed. Many investors believe that the important March employment figures, to be published on Friday, will give a further indication of the health of the US economy and prompt a further fall in shares.

The stock market is also expecting a clutch of corporate earnings results for the first financial quarter, which ended yesterday, which could prompt profit warnings. Companies that missed their earnings forecasts by only a few cents were heavily punished by the stock market last week, increasing the nervousness felt by investors.

Wall Street, page 40

Gunmaker woos children

From Richard Thomson in New York

SMITH & WESSON, the US gun manufacturer owned by Tomkins, of the UK, has stepped into controversy by launching a marketing campaign aimed at children to train a new generation of buyers.

The company is opening family-friendly firing ranges. The first, in Springfield, Massachusetts, where Smith & Wesson is based, is designed to look more like a shopping mall than a shooting range. Called the National Firearms Training Centre, it cost $3 million to build and also sells guns.

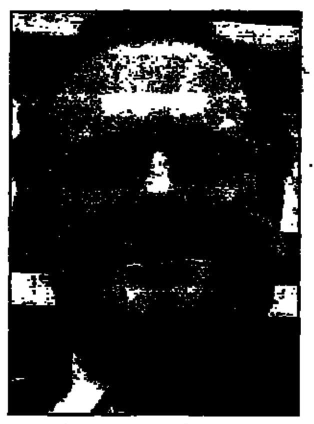
Ken Jorgensen, a spokesman, said: "You overcome a lot of myths when you pick up a gun, with the right supervision, and begin shooting. We're seeing families coming in."

Anyone can use the range by paying $35 for an hour course in shooting before firing a few clips under supervision.

Smith & Wesson wants to avoid guns being seen as the preserve of fanatics. It hopes that its efforts will defuse growing criticism of guns in the US.

BBC-Discovery venture delayed

By Eric Reguly



Phillis: idea for deal

The BBC's $500 million-plus joint venture with Discovery Communications of America will not start before June — six months later than forecast — delaying the launch of new international channels until early next year.

BBC sources said more time was needed because the venture had become much broader and more complex than originally expected. In September, when the two sides revealed they were in talks, they said they hoped to reach final agreements by the end of 1996. The deal, which is the brainchild of Bob Phillis, the BBC's deputy director-general, is designed to build up the corporation's commercial income by exploiting the BBC name in overseas markets.

It will do so by creating new subscription-TV channels that will be shown on satellite and cable systems and through joint programme developments.

The venture with Discovery will be similar in concept to the one formed two weeks ago with Flextech, the cable and satellite programmer that is ultimately controlled by Tele-Communications Inc (TCI), America's biggest cable company. TCI also indirectly controls Discovery.

The BBC-Flextech joint venture gained exclusive UK and Irish rights to much of the BBC's programming archives, including its entertainment and natural history libraries, and will invest about £140 million to launch eight channels in the autumn.

All the capital is to be supplied by Flextech.

Liquidator wants partners paid London rate of £318 an hour

Tropical palms crossed with silver

By Jon Ashworth

TOUGH life, being a liquidator. Not only do you get to visit exotic tropical locations, but charge substantial fees for the pleasure. About £318 per hour, to be precise.

Some intriguing numbers have emerged from the shell of the Global Opportunity Fund, which collapsed in 1994, leaving investors deeply out of pocket. Morgan Stanley, the US investment bank, acted as administrator and custodian to the fund, and has been accused of negligence — a charge it denies. Court action is pending.

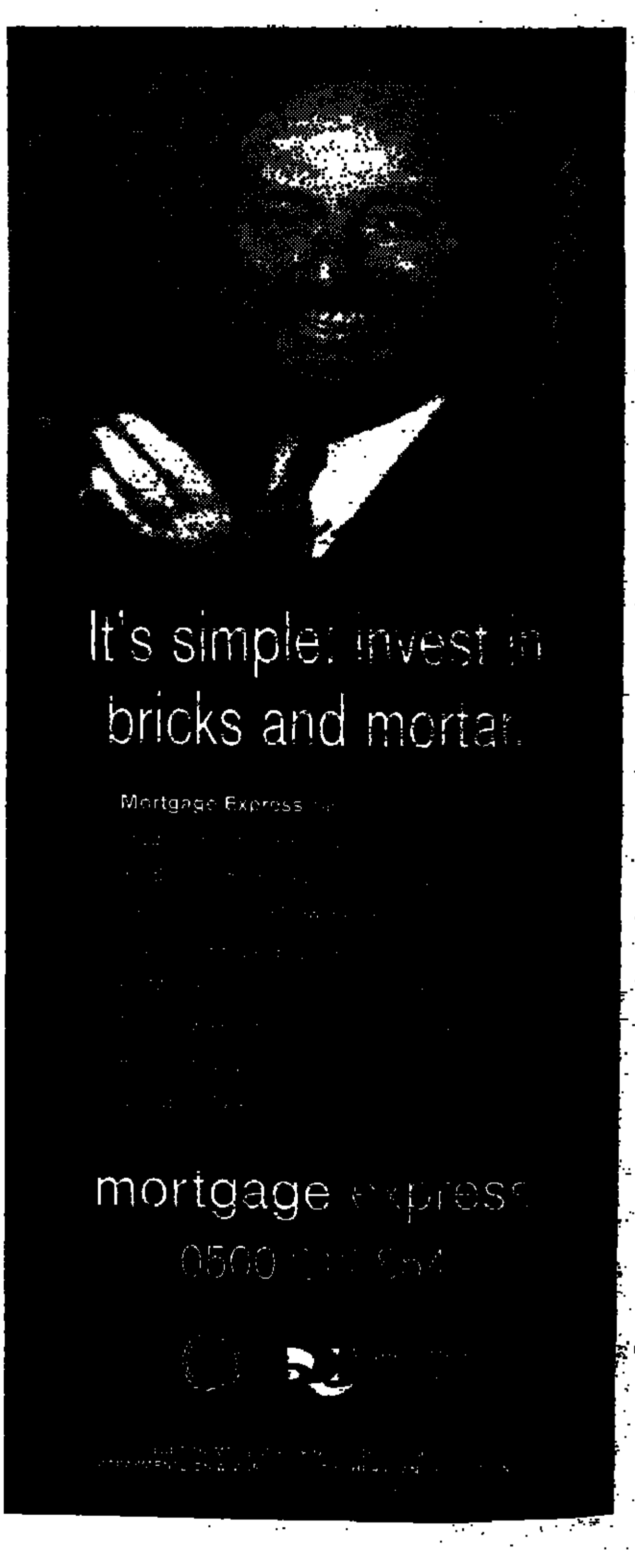
Christopher Morris and Ian Wight, of Deloitte & Touche, have been appointed joint liquidators of the fund, which operated from Luxembourg, but was domiciled in the Cayman Islands. At a court hearing in the Caymans in January, liquidators' fees were fixed at $400 (about £245) an hour for partners; $275 for senior managers; $220 for senior accountants; $145 for staff accountants; and $85 for administrative staff. The fees are payable out of the assets of the fund — currently valued at about $3.4 million.

In the latest twist, Deloitte & Touche has returned to court, requesting that London (as opposed to Cayman) staff working on the case be allowed to charge at a different hourly rate: £318 for partners; £233 for senior managers; and £119 for senior accountants.

Deloitte & Touche is also seeking to add a third joint liquidator to the list. Mr Wight, in an affidavit, said he spends large parts of the year away on business. He adds: "It would be extremely useful and cost-efficient to have a further liquidator in this jurisdiction who could take over matters in my absence."

Investors in the Global Opportunity Fund are none too happy with the latest application over fees. They have taken the matter up, and the application has been postponed, pending a full court hearing. Deloitte & Touche said it was not seeking to increase fees, but wanted its London scale to apply where necessary.

Mr Morris and his contemporaries have mounted a robust defence, saying even the recovery of a few pence in the pound for creditors is better than nothing.



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